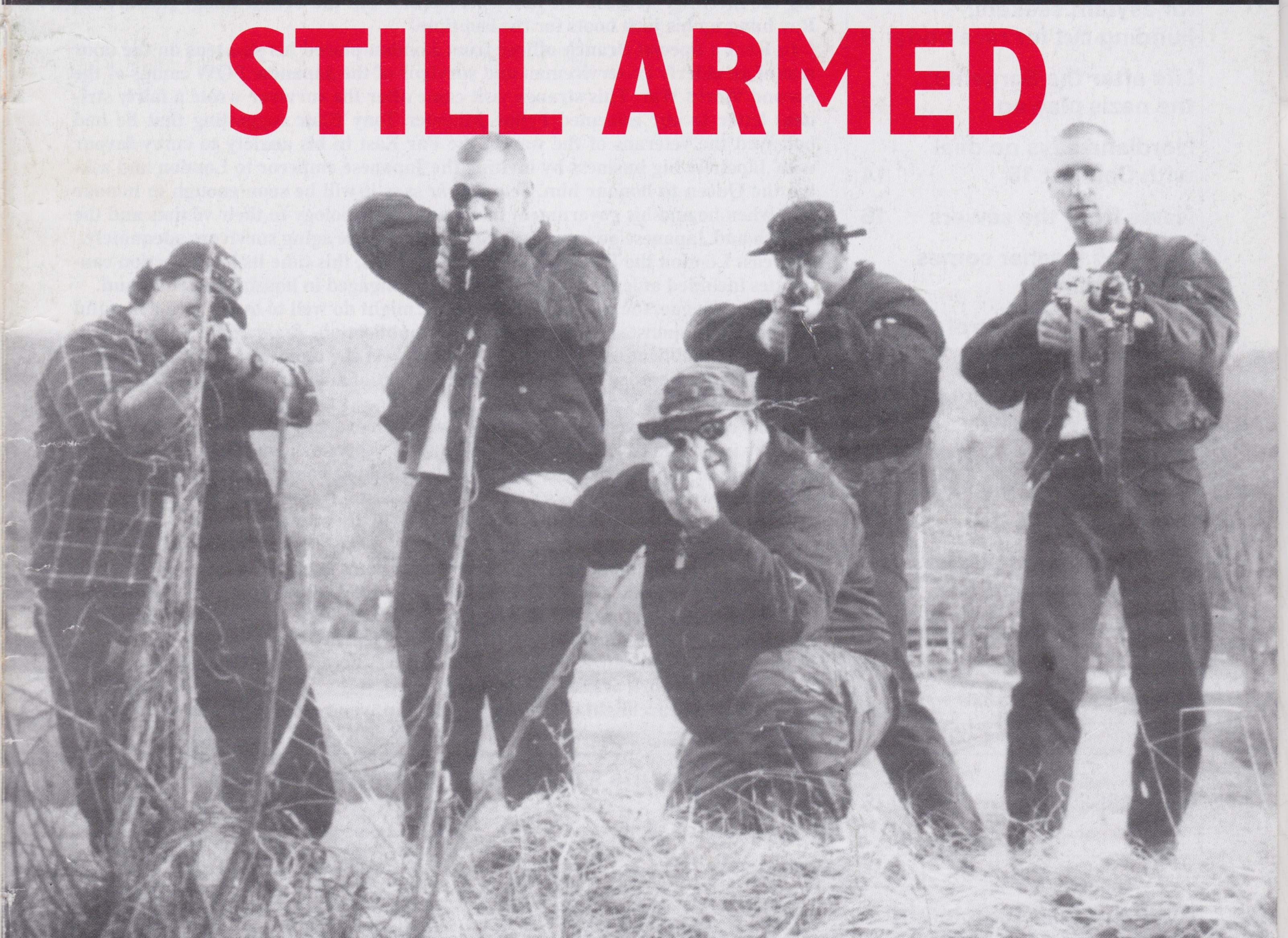
MAY 1998 No 275 £1.50

SEARCHLIGHT

THE INTERNATIONAL ANTI-FASCIST MONTHLY



STILL ARMED STILL DANGEROUS

Also this month in Searchlight

- **Charlie Sargent: now the whole story can be told**
- **Where the fascists are standing in the local elections**

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Published by Searchlight Magazine Ltd
37B New Cavendish Street
LONDON W1M 8JR
0171 284 4040
ISSN 0262-4591

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Tel: 0171 284 4040
Fax: 0171 284 4410
Email: editor@s-light.demon.co.uk
World Wide Web site:
http://www.s-light.demon.co.uk

Editorial

April fools

It is a pity that idiotic behaviour is not confined to the first day of April. Last month included a number of examples.

First the National Assembly Against Racism inveigled the Churches Commission for Racial Justice into inviting William Pepper, James Earl Ray's lawyer and apologist, to give a lecture to commemorate the 30th anniversary of Martin Luther King's murder. Thank goodness for men of integrity such as Bishop Wilfred Wood, who when made aware of Pepper's use as a witness of Sid Carthew, the BNP activist and nazi of 30 years' standing, withdrew from chairing the meeting. At least one other person also did the decent thing: James Earl Ray hung up his jack boots for the last time.

In Kent a Special Branch officer from London placed his size tens on the door mat of an elderly ex-serviceman and survivor of the Japanese POW camps of the Second World War. This strange visit came after the survivor wrote a fairly strident letter to our esteemed Prime Minister Tony Blair suggesting that he had betrayed the veterans of the war in the Far East in his anxiety to curry favour with Japanese big business by inviting the Japanese emperor to London and asking the Queen to honour him. *Searchlight* says it will be soon enough to honour him when he and his government make a proper apology to their victims and the British and Japanese governments compensate these aging survivors adequately.

In east London the BNP was up to its old tricks, this time its local election candidates included at least two people allegedly engaged in housing benefit fraud.

William Hague, the new look Tory leader, might do well to question the handful of Tory MPs sponsoring the quasi-fascist publication, *Right Now*. You can certainly tell a publication by its editor's friends. At the moment former nazi Derek Turner is being lauded by the French Front National and *Nation Europa*, the key publication of Germany's new nazis.

Some readers have asked why we are not covering the Stephen Lawrence enquiry in detail. The reason is that we intend to give evidence in the second part of the enquiry later this year and wish to withhold comment until then. In the meantime we join Stephen's family and friends in mourning his passing five years ago and hope that justice and truth will finally prevail.

The *World In Action* programme which at last fully established Charlie Sargent's role as a state asset prompted us to look back at *Searchlight*'s role in charting and exposing his rise and fall since 1993. One front cover stood out "Charlie Sargent errand boy of MI5 and nazis". Its date was October 1995. The question is whether the Security Services have learned anything from their mismanagement of this affair. We understand that there is at least one other agent provocateur at work around the far right.

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The charmed life of Charlie Sargent

Last month ITV's *World in Action* exposed Charlie Sargent as a Special Branch informer within the neo-nazi terror group Combat 18. In this special report, Searchlight takes an in-depth look at the double life he led and the murky world in which he operated.

Charlie Sargent (right of centre) spying on Ulster loyalists

On 10 February 1997 Charlie Sargent was arrested along with his close friend Martin Cross after the death of another Combat 18 follower, Chris Castle, at the home of Sargent's common-law wife, Maxine Durrant. In custody, both men refused to answer police questions about the death, by a single stab in Castle's back.

However Sargent was keen to talk off the record. *World in Action* learnt that he had asked to see Special Branch. "I'm an informant," he told one Essex police officer. Within hours he was seen by a member of the Metropolitan Police Special Branch, the unit that keeps tabs on political extremism.

The story that began to unravel supported what many, including Searchlight, had been saying for several years – that Sargent had been working as a police informer within C18. While some have claimed that the police turned a blind eye to racist attacks, *World in Action* was more circumspect, believing that on several occasions C18's victims had been left unprotected.

Quite when Sargent was taken on by Special Branch remains a mystery, but that he was has been confirmed by several police sources who spoke to *World in Action*. Some say he was working for the police from the beginning of C18, while others look to the 1993-94 period. A third view is that he did not become an informant until summer 1996, at the height of the feud within the neo-nazi music scene.

The evidence collected by *World in Action* points against the theory that he was working for the police when he launched C18. At the time of the first *World in Action* exposé of C18 in April 1993, the level of police information on the group was minimal. Shortly afterwards, Special Branch spent some considerable time attempting to recruit informers at a senior level of the organisation. Several activists were approached with offers of money, while in other cases more threatening tactics were used.

The view that Sargent was recruited some time after summer 1993 coincides with two developments, not directly linked with C18, that were alarming the authorities at the time. Indeed, throughout this period the authorities took a dim view of the C18 threat, with MI5 dismissing C18 as simply a public order, and so a police, problem.

The rise of the British National Party, which had begun in 1990, was reaching new levels with the election of Derek Beackon as a Tower Hamlets councillor in September 1993. At the same time the ferocious loyalist terror campaign was showing no signs of abating.

The BNP was MI5's sole concern on the extreme right, a subversive threat that had to be watched and diluted. Perhaps it was no coincidence that a massive feud broke out with C18, overshadowing the BNP's election success. As C18's leader, Sargent played a pivotal role, continually knocking the BNP, then launching a rival organisation.

The BNP responded by prohibiting links with C18. This backfired badly with London BNP, the organisation's bedrock, decimated as younger members left in droves. With the BNP failing to hold Beackon's seat the following May, its forward momentum was halted. Not until autumn 1995 did the party begin to fight back against C18.

However, it was events across the Irish Sea that were preoccupying the police. The exposure of the UDA's intelligence officer, Brian Nelson, as a British informer prompted a massive reorganisation within the upper ranks of the loyalist group. His secret dealings with the British, coupled with *The Cook Report*'s investigation into loyalist racketeering, were used as the basis to replace the "old guard". A new, younger and more militant generation of activists took their place. The inner council was disbanded, symbolised by the removal of the oval table in its Shankill Road headquarters, and a new cell structure implemented.

Reflecting this new leadership was the UDA's West Belfast commander, Johnny Ardare. Young and ruthless, he set about terrorising the Catholic community in its traditionally safe heart, the Falls Road. Between 1990 and 1994, his 2nd battalion was responsible for over 20 killings, including some of the most horrific incidents during this period. In all, the UDA and UVF death squads were responsible for killing far more people than the Republicans.

Steve Martin, one of the C18 nazis active in the UDA London brigade

The pre-1990 UDA was heavily infiltrated by the British authorities with possibly three informants in the six-member inner council. The new leaders worked in cells and were generally younger and less known, and the British were finding it hard to gather information. In came Sargent and C18.

At the same time the UDA's mainland operation was being rejuvenated. In 1988 Frank Portinari took over as commander of the London brigade of the UDA determined to become more active. Eddy Whicker was recruited as his trusted lieutenant, a key activist in C18's early days. Others active around the London brigade included Rob Hilton, Alan Thompson and Steve Martin, previously linked to the UVF. All were leading C18 activists. Sargent and Gary Hitchcock, the two other prominent C18 activists, were members of the Derry Apprentice Boys.

Under Portinari's leadership, London UDA began gathering intelligence on its Republican opponents, in much the same way that C18 did a couple of years later. There was open talk of "taking out" opponents, with Ken Livingstone, MP a particular target. It was 1991 and a Labour Party committed to a united Ireland was seemingly heading for election. Some within the UDA were talking of bringing the war to the mainland.

But Portinari's London brigade was also involved in assisting his loyalist friends over the water. In May 1993 Portinari was caught transporting six handguns to a Belfast UDA activist. Both men were sent to prison. However, *World in Action* learnt that several runs had already got through. People in C18 supplied all the guns and at the time of Portinari's arrest a deal for up to 50 guns was being set up.

Although Portinari was out of the picture, C18's links with the UDA continued. Sargent was a regular visitor to Belfast, having strong links with East Belfast UFF, the UDA's military wing. In winter 1993-94, the leader of this UFF battalion travelled to London to ask

C18 for assistance. In a central London pub, Sargent was asked to provide detonators and large quantities of ecstasy.

The tie-up between C18 and the UDA was complex. While many of the UDA new guard had previously been active in neo-nazi politics – many of Ardare's 2nd Battalion were nazi skins during the 1980s – the link was more one of expediency. Henry McDonald, author of the history of the UVF, told *World in Action*: "The loyalists always regarded the far right in Britain with a mixture of suspicion and contempt. Suspicion because they believe that those organisations were infiltrated by the security services; and contempt because they regard them as street clowns."

However, during the early 1990s the relationship grew to unprecedented levels. "They [the UDA] didn't have detonators to explode large bombs. All their bombing attacks in the Irish Republic were either fire bombs or small devices detonated with black powder. They really wanted to do what the IRA were doing in the City of London at the time, exploding bombs and causing massive economic damage. They wanted to replicate what the Provos were doing in London and they needed detonators and they had to look across the water to try and find that kind of technology."

For the UDA, which lacked the IRA's international support, any help was welcome. While many within the loyalist community had little time for C18's politics, assistance in obtaining weapons and drugs – to fund operations – was always accepted. Other UDA representatives were approaching Chinese and Jewish intermediaries in the hope of aid.

C18's link loyalist links might have given the authorities an irresistible chance to watch the loyalists on the mainland and gauge their bomb-making ability. But in September 1994 the loyalists joined the cease-fire and Special Branch began to refocus priorities.

If *World in Action* is correct, Sargent was recruited after spring 1993, before the loyalists halted sectarian killings. During summer 1994 Searchlight began receiving correspondence from "Vicky George". Several typed letters arrived, all containing gossip and information from inside C18. Searchlight never identified the author, but the handwriting and typeface bear an amazing resemblance to Sargent's.

Vicky and George were the names of children of Hitchcock. The letters arrived soon after Hitchcock, Sargent's long-time friend, began to drop out of C18. Besides naming C18 supporters, the letters pinned everything on Hitchcock and claimed he was involved in several illegal activities.

Loyalism and the BNP might not have been the authorities' only use for Sargent. During 1996 he played a part in the bitter feud that enveloped the international nazi music scene. While Sargent cannot take all the blame for the dispute, which had as much to do with inflated egos and money, he played a pivotal role.

World in Action spoke to several people active in the music scene at that time, not all of whom were against Sargent, and most told similar stories. Time and again Sargent, aided by his younger brother Steve, instigated feuds and disagreements. With Billy Bartlett they wrote threatening letters in the name of their opponent Will Browning and later the West Midlands Ku Klux Klan. On another occasion Sargent wanted C18 activists to throw a hand-grenade through the window of a C18 opponent. When they refused, he turned to other supporters asking them to burn the place down.

In 1996 the Sargents and the French nazi, Hervé, produced *Wotan – Will of the Aryan Nation*. A childish and sick publication, it vilified opponents in the most disgusting and infantile manner. More abusive letters were written to the imprisoned US nazi David Lane and to George Hawthorne, proprietor of Resistance Records.

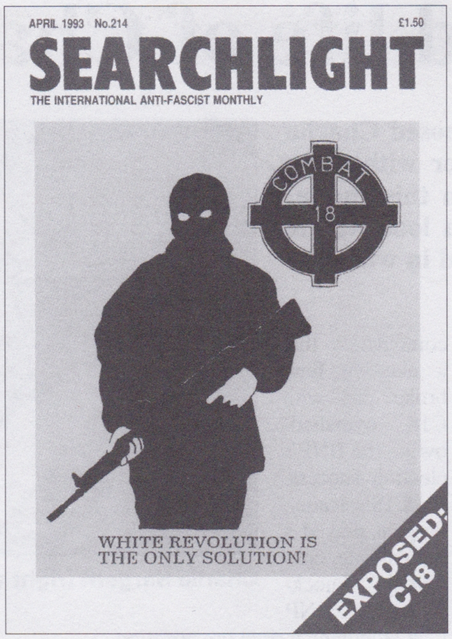
"He would tell one person something and someone else a different story," Darren Wells, a C18 supporter, told *World in Action*. "He would leave them to fight amongst themselves. At the time we all trusted Sargent. We had no reason not to."

In Browning, Sargent initially had a willing accomplice to his schemes. Browning was C18's thug, instrumental in most of the violence and only too willing carry out C18's punishment beatings under Sargent's orders.

"He knew how to manipulate people," Wells continued in a veiled reference to Browning's willingness to use violence. "Charlie knew that he had some very violent people around him and he also knew how to exploit that. He did it very well."

The feud destroyed what was becoming a lucrative business for the neo-nazis. Not only were they raising huge funds, but they were attracting hundreds of young people to their events.

It was in autumn 1996 that Sargent's cover began to unravel. "Towards the end of 1996 there had been a change in direction," Wells told the programme. "Some of the hardline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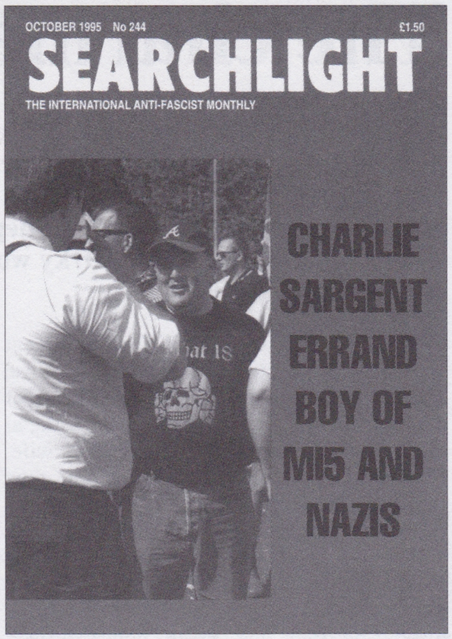
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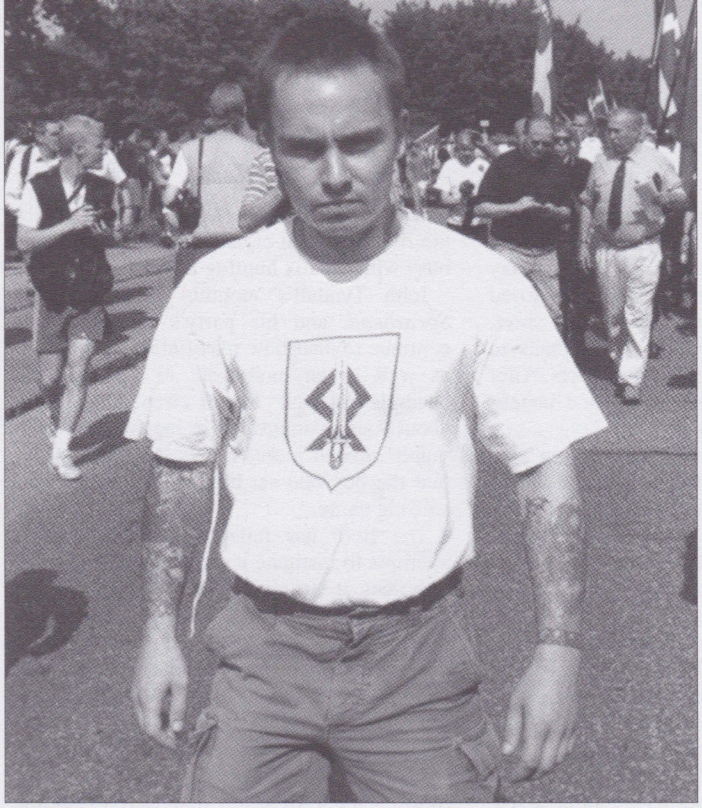
CHARLIE SARGENT ERRAND BOY OF MI5 AND NAZIS

Searchlight was on the case from the start, with major exposés in April 1993 and October 1995. Below left: Sargent's friend Gary Hitchcock. Centre: Martin Cross, the C18 activist who ended up with a murder conviction after becoming embroiled in Sargent's schemes against his opponent, Will Browning (right)



Thomas Nakaba, the Danish bomber. Right: the NSA, Sargent's rival to the BNP. 'Tomorrow' proved rather elusive

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militants of C18 wanted do what people had been talking about for years. Up ourselves for a proper terrorist organisation."

One man who was not happy about this was Sargent. "I opposed this," he told the court during his murder trial, "I just wanted to do legal things." The seeds of friction between himself and Browning were sown at a National Socialist Alliance meeting in Chelmsford in September, when Sargent spoke of the need to produce a newspaper and begin paper sales. At the meeting with Browning was Thomas Nakaba, a violent Danish nazi. Leaving the meeting in disgust, the two men hatched a plan.

The letter bomb plot was put into place during a visit to Denmark in late October, although not finalised until Nakaba made a flying visit to London in mid December. Browning, increasingly suspicious of Sargent, felt an irresistible urge to boast about his plans, eventually telling the C18 leader at a meeting in a Mile End pub.

But not everything that Browning told Sargent was correct. Sargent was given a number of potential targets, none of whom were actually sent bombs. More importantly, Browning told Sargent and Sargent alone that the plastic explosives came from Poland.

When the story began to break the Polish angle was repeated, firstly during Nakaba's trial and then in the *Daily Mail*, which wrote: "In October last year he [Browning] and a third member of Combat 18 travelled from Poland and handed explosives to Nakaba". When *World in Action* spoke to Arne Stevens, the Deputy Commissioner of Copenhagen Police, he too stated that the explosives were brought in from Poland.

Nakaba was arrested on 18 January 1997 and the story broke in Britain later that day. However, the bombing campaign was not news to Steve Cartwright, editor of the Scottish magazine *Highlander*. On 15 January Glasgow police had told Cartwright that a suspicious package had been intercepted at the local sorting office.

According to a report in *Scotland on Sunday* and confirmed by sorting office staff, the area was sealed off and bomb disposal experts were called to carry out a controlled explosion.

Within three hours of intercepting the video package, Post Office internal security issued an Opsflash security warning to all sorting offices to look out for suspect packages from Sweden or Denmark. It gave a list of potential targets, none of whom ever received any bombs.

Glasgow police have subsequently attempted to deny any incident took place. The Metropolitan Police have stayed silent on the whole issue, in marked contrast to other counter-terrorist actions. Their silence is the more surprising considering the success of their operation.

While they refused to confirm that it was their information that led to the arrest of Nakaba, the Danish police were less shy with *World in Action*. The programme also obtained an internal police document that clearly identified the source of the tip-off. "… video cassette bombs were intercepted in Sweden after intelligence from MPSB [Met Special Branch] and the OCG [Organised Crime Squad] led the Danes to follow a Danish national to Sweden".

The police informant had to know who was going to send the bombs, where from and in what format. It is likely that he would also have known the story about Poland.

Cartwright was not totally surprised at the package. A few weeks earlier he had been given information from Sargent that he was to receive a letter bomb disguised in a video, posted from Denmark or Sweden. Sargent thought Cartwright was an intended target; so did the Opsflash which was circulated through the Post Office.

While the evidence against Sargent is inconclusive, one might have expected him to make more of the letter bombs during his trial earlier this year. After all, the main witness against him was Browning, and Sargent's defence was that he feared for his life. Yet the incident was hardly mentioned except during the summing up, when it was alleged that Sargent was an intended recipient of a bomb. *World in Action* asked a senior police officer about this, who replied: "It would have alluded to his other role you have inferred to".

The arrest of Nakaba did not defuse the growing divisions within C18. Sargent had been expelled, but refused to go quietly. Threats and counter threats were flying between the followers of Sargent and Browning. During January and February 1997 armed police were involved in a number of incidents in Essex, at the homes of Charlie and Steve Sargent. On one occasion, Kevin Johnson was forced out of his car at gunpoint by three vehicles, while almost simultaneously four vehicles were involved in a car chase with Browning. Boxing his car in, they eventually escorted the new C18 leader out of Essex.

On 10 February Sargent, helped by Cross, attempted to seek revenge on Browning by setting an ambush for Castle. When Castle arrived in Harlow to swap some tools for the Blood and Honour subscription list, he was lured into the house and stabbed in the back.

Sargent thought he had the perfect story. He, Cross and their respective partners all told the police how they had been attacked by armed men. Sargent even said that Browning had established an armed cell within C18, something he was bitterly opposed to. It did not work. Eventually the police, and later a jury, saw through this lie and convicted him of murder.

It might have been very different. Sargent was initially brought in on suspicion of murder. Yet despite Cross admitting to the stabbing, and the police recognising the contradictions in their statements, Sargent was released without charge the following morning. He later agreed to make a statement against Browning, who was then charged with conspiracy to commit grievous bodily harm. The evidence against Browning was the word of Sargent and Cross.

When Browning's lawyer arrived at the police station, she was told by an Essex detective that they had intelligence to support the theory that Browning had been trying to attack Sargent. She was also told of Special Branch involvement in the case, "particularly in relation to Sargent".

World in Action established from another source that Metropolitan Police Special Branch officers attended Harlow police station to see Sargent. The next day Browning's lawyer was again told that there was intelligence against her client in relation to the conspiracy allegation. But the police refused to say more than that: "there was intelligence and Special Branch involvement".

In the end Sargent's friends were in no position to assist him further. Charges against Browning were dropped and three weeks after Castle's death Sargent was arrested for murder.

The trial was a strange event as rival factions of C18 threatened, spoke out and even attacked each other. Even the barristers privately admitted that they had never dealt with a case like it. Browning stood in the dock giving evidence against his former leader, while Sargent's supporters trooped in to testify about Browning's access to guns.

For Det Supt Steve Reynolds, who led the investigation, it was an eye-opener. "I was totally happy that Browning was a truthful witness. I think anyone who saw him give evidence could not fail to be impressed that he was telling the truth. Will Browning is obviously a powerful individual, he's got a number of qualities. I'm sure in other situations he could be absolutely frightening."

His opinion of Sargent was less glowing. "I find it quite chilling that he was able to plan that an unknown person was going to get seriously injured. The fact that the person turned out to be Christopher Castle, a person he did know, but he was still determined to carry it out. He is a very dangerous character."

Searchlight does not oppose the use of informers operating within dangerous and violent organisations such as C18, however their use must be strictly monitored. There are no laws governing the running of informers, but merely a set of Home Office guidelines, 97/1969. Devised after judicial criticism of police informants who took part in crime, the circular outlined the parameters for operation.

"Where an informant gives the Police information about the intention of others to commit a crime in which they intend that he shall play a part, his participation should be allowed to continue only where:

"He does not actively engage in planning and committing the crime; he is intended to play only a minor role; and his participation is essential to enable the police to frustrate the principal criminals and to arrest them (albeit for lesser offences such as attempt or conspiracy to commit the crime, or carrying offensive weapons) before injury is done to any person or serious damage to property."

More importantly the guidelines continue: "The informant should be instructed that he must on no account act as agent provocateur, whether by suggesting to others that they should commit offences or encouraging them to do so, and that if he is found to have done so he will himself be liable to prosecution."

Even in his last days of freedom Sargent was still instigating others to commit crimes. The publication, *The Scorpion*, encourages fraud, details bomb making equipment and threatens opponents. Once again, both he and his brother escaped police attention.

Some have said that these rules are too rigid considering the murky world in which informants operate. That may be so, but for now these are the rules and in Sargent's case they were broken and broken badly. That Sargent ended up murdering a rival right-winger is testament to the degree to which he thought he could circumvent the law.

Sargent is presently in Chelmsford jail awaiting his transfer to a lifer prison, where he will spend the next 20 years. He has lived his life on the edge. From street fighting to drug dealing, football hooliganism to petty crime, Sargent has been in and out of trouble since his teens. At some point over the past six years he did a deal with the authorities, either for money or to escape prosecution. Whatever the motive, he never ceased to be a scumbag, continually hoping to engineer personal advantage from every situation. Even when plotting murder, he tried to use his police contacts one final time. Unfortunately for him, his luck had finally run out.

Fascist parties fail

Despite the British National Party's plans to fight every seat in Tower Hamlets and Newham in the May council elections, when nominations closed the list of candidates was exceedingly short. Perhaps supporters have been reluctant to stand because of the attention it attracts. After all, why give up a well established benefit scam for a few measly votes.

Indeed, as *Searchlight* goes to press at least two candidates have had their housing benefit stopped and investigations are under way into a number of others.

While the Labour Party has not exactly lived up to its historic anti-racist and anti-fascist role, the trade unions, churches and other religious groups have worked closely with Searchlight to expose the fascists' hypocrisy and criminality, and much of the investigation into the alleged criminal activities of far-right candidates is the result of this cooperation.

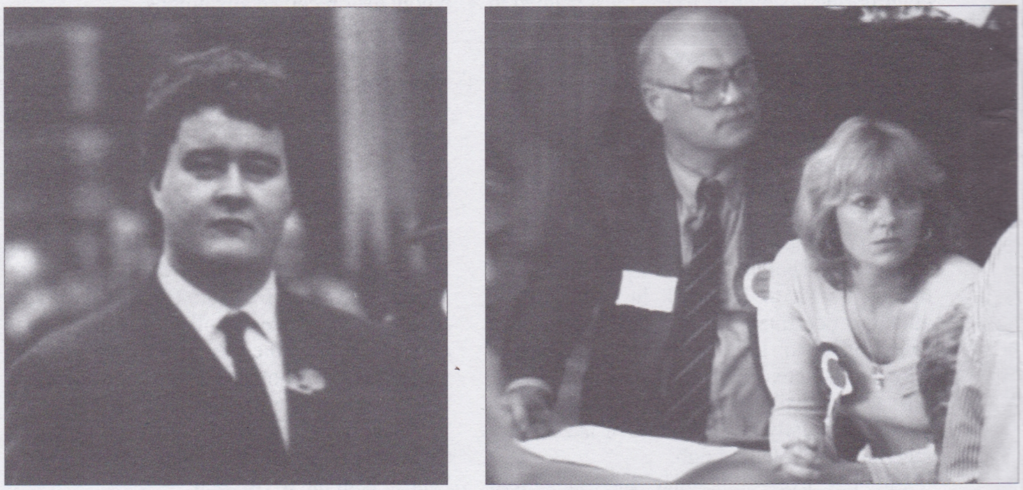
Searchlight has often pointed out the BNP's deliberate lies over the paedophilia issue. Now come reports that young children are being given BNP posters to protest outside a police station in Bridgewater, Somerset, where the released paedophile murderer Sidney Cooke was rumoured to be hiding. How many young teenagers have been abused in the ranks of far-right groups, from Mosley to the BNP? This particular BNP activity is being run by Tony Collins and Bruce Cowd, both postal workers. Cowd is the BNP's Bristol organiser and has also been busy with the fox hunting fraternity.

John Tyndall's monthly hate magazine, *Spearhead*, and his party's election teams continue to distribute material that is libellous as well as an incitement to violence. For example the BNP is still circulating a story about Asian youngsters setting fire to a white youth, several months after the police stated that the boy had set himself alight in a glue sniffing game.

The BNP has failed spectacularly in its attempts to instigate a race war, or as Tyndall describes it a "civil war", in east London, Oldham and parts of Yorkshire. Clearly, people can see through the propaganda of a party that puts a convicted terrorist such as Tony Lecomber in charge of its national election programme.

Surprisingly absent from the BNP lists in east London are the old party stalwarts Steve Smith, Derek Beackon and Barry Osborne. Either they have fallen from grace or they are engaged in the factional fighting inside the party.

Back on the scene, however, is Paul Maxwell, standing in St James ward, Tower Hamlets. He was expelled from the party some time ago for being Jewish – if he is, the BNP is welcome to this renegade. His reappearance is not a sign of the BNP moderating



Above left: Phil Andrews uses a "community group" for cover. Right: the BNP's Derek Beackon when he lost his council seat in 1994. Below: Linda Miller, the NF's new candidate in Tower Hamlets, waving her mysteriously injured wrists

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NATI

to muster for local elections

its antisemitism, but of its appalling lack of members who actually live in the borough.

One candidate appears to have slipped past the BNP's proscription of the nazi terror group Combat 18. Richard Mulhall, standing in Halifax, seems to have retained the links to C18 that he developed when it was still under the control of Charlie Sargent, well known murderer and police informer.

If the BNP list of candidates is small, those of the other far-right groups are even smaller. A growing number of the tiny membership of the National Democrats are getting fed up with their leader, Ian Anderson, and are unwilling to put their names on the line for him, while the National Front appears to be moving towards a split.

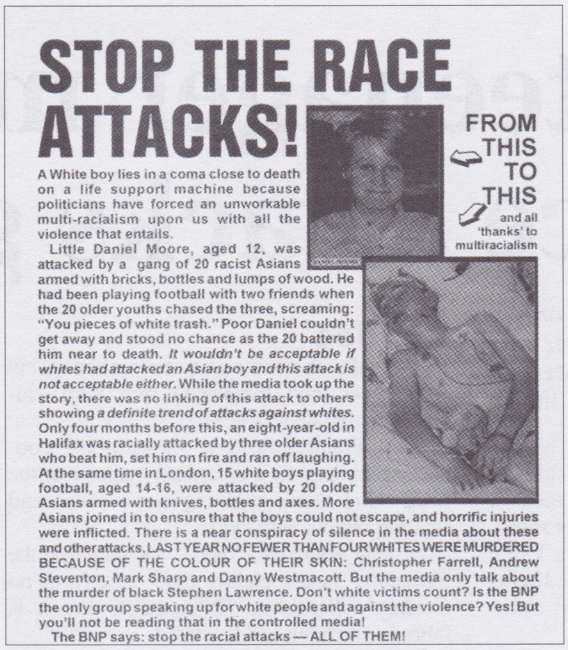
Prominent among the NF candidates is the former BNP activist Linda Miller. She has been trying to book a hall in Tower Hamlets so she can shout her big mouth off in front of her new found friends. However, the local authority appears wary of letting a hall to people who break the law and incite violence, which she and her partner, Alex Cooper, do at every turn.

The two Third Way candidates standing in Havering East London have a fascist pedigree going back to the NF and in Ms Truman's case training in the cadre group of the Political Soldiers during her active days in Sheffield in the 1980s.

Phil Andrews, a leading light in the International Third Position, has put up a number of candidates in west London under a flag of convenience, called the Isleworth Community Group. A convicted thug, Andrews is persistent if nothing else.

All told there are far fewer far-right candidates than expected. Many have stood back for fear of exposure, but the absence of candidates has come as a shock to BNP members in Yorkshire, where the BNP saved a deposit in Dewsbury in last year's general election. The reason appears to be that street fighters such as Dave Appleyard do not fit the new image being created by the BNP's Yorkshire regional organiser, Ian Wilson, who has undermined Appleyard's recent efforts and favours building up his "Sunday Club" connections with rich local racists by holding regular meetings with nazi speakers at the Talbot Hotel in Batley. When nominations closed only two candidates were reported in Yorkshire: Chris Jackson, who is in fact the party's Northwest regional organiser, in Todmorden and Mulhall.

The BNP's Northwest region is currently being pulled apart by an internal dispute over the theft of more than £1,000 of party funds, which again says little for the BNP's honesty or integrity. So far the only beneficiary has been *Searchlight*, which has been deluged with information on Yorkshire and the Northwest from angry and disgruntled BNP activists.



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FROM THIS TO THIS and all 'thanks' to multiracialism

A White boy lies in a coma close to death on a life support machine because politicians have forced an unworkable multi-racialism upon us with all the violence that entails.

Little Daniel Moore, aged 12, was attacked by a gang of 20 racist Asians armed with bricks, bottles and lumps of wood. He had been playing football with two friends when the 20 older youths chased the three, screaming: "You pieces of white trash." Poor Daniel couldn't get away and stood no chance as the 20 battered him near to death. *It wouldn't be acceptable if whites had attacked an Asian boy and this attack is not acceptable either.* While the media took up the story, there was no linking of this attack to others showing *a definite trend of attacks against whites.* Only four months before this, an eight-year-old in Halifax was racially attacked by three older Asians who beat him, set him on fire and ran off laughing. At the same time in London, 15 white boys playing football, aged 14-16, were attacked by 20 older Asians armed with knives, bottles and axes. More Asians joined in to ensure that the boys could not escape, and horrific injuries were inflicted. There is a near conspiracy of silence in the media about these and other attacks. LAST YEAR NO FEWER THAN FOUR WHITES WERE MURDERED BECAUSE OF THE COLOUR OF THEIR SKIN: Christopher Farrell, Andrew Steventon, Mark Sharp and Danny Westmacott. But the media only talk about the murder of black Stephen Lawrence. Don't white victims count? Is the BNP the only group speaking up for white people and against the violence? Yes! But you'll not be reading that in the controlled media!

The BNP says: stop the racial attacks — ALL OF THEM!

Typically libellous and inaccurate BNP leaflet

Far right candidates standing on 7 May 1998

British National Party

London

Tower Hamlets	Millwall	Gordon Callow
		Steven R Harrington
		David J Hill
	St James	Paul Maxwell
		Paul E McHale
	Holy Trinity	Paul Costello
Newham	Ordnance	Ken Frances
	Beckton	Peter Hart
	Canning Town/Grange	Michael Davidson
	South	Jay Lee
		Caroline Lee
		Colin Smith
	Custom House & Silvertown	Matthew Marian
		John Kitchener
		Brian Reeves
	West Ham	Paul Borg
Hillingdon	Charville	Mark Bringlow
Sutton	St Hellier N	Paul Ferguson
Merton	Ravensbury	Rob Andrews
		Ian Dell
Hackney	Victoria	Victor Dooley
	Wenlock	Sheila McKay
Bexley	Crayford	Colin Smith
		Pauline Smith
		Susan Turner
Waltham Forest	Higham Hall	Terence Cooper
	Chapel End	Alan Gould

Rest of the country

Woking	Kingsfield/Westfield	Paul Henderson
Illingworth		Richard Mulhall
Todmorden		Chris Jackson
Birmingham	Northfield	Lee Windridge
	Oscott	Keith Axon
	Kings Norton	Jeffrey Astbury

National Front

Tower Hamlets	Lansbury	Linda Miller
Harrow	Roxeth	Gerald Hutchins
Sandwell	Princes End	John Lord
Dudley	St James	W Robinson

National Democrats

London Newham	South	Ian Anderson
	Greatfield	Michael Hipperson
London Southwark	Dockyard	Gary Cartwright
Chesterfield	Aldescarr	Timothy Knowles

Isleworth Community Group

London Hounslow	Isleworth S	Philip Andrews
		Thomas Reader
		Patricia Miqdadi
	Isleworth N	Caroline Andrews
		Patricia Doran
		Don Golding
	Spring Grove	Lee Knight
		Stphen Palmer
		Lancelot Newbigging

Third Way

London Havering	Airfield	Jeannie Truman
	Elm Park	Graham Williamson

At the time of going to press full details of other fascist candidates were not yet held

ROUND-UP on RACISM

Asian teenager murdered but race attacks go on

An Asian woman was attacked on the streets on Glasgow's South Side, only two days before a rally to protest at the murder of an Asian youth in the same area.

Kishwar Noor, 53, was attacked as she walked from her son's shop. Two teenage girls and a boy blocked her path. They shouted racist abuse, threatened her with a knife, knocked her to the ground and "played football" with her bag. The attack only ended when a van driver stopped.

Her son, Mohammed Shahid, said: "There was no reason for this other than race and it is a symptom of a worsening pattern of abuse suffered by Asian people in this city. We are told the city does not have a race problem. That is not true – we suffer daily from abuse, mostly verbal."

The rally, on 8 March, followed the death of Imran Khan, 15, eight days after he was attacked outside a chip shop near his home on 21 February.

Organised by the Islamic Unity Project, the Imran Khan Committee, the Fire Brigades Union and the Anti Nazi League, the demonstration attracted 250 supporters, in protest against the murder and other racist attacks.

City councillors and some community leaders had called for the demonstration to be boycotted. Mohammed Sarwar, Labour MP for Govan, said: "At the end of the day, everyone wants justice for Imran and for all.

"There has been divided opinion. Some people thought the demonstration may end in fighting and trouble, but it is very important that we restore the confidence in people and that the young people from the Asian communities feel confident of the authorities. Unfortunately, they have little confidence in the police and the leaders."

Four men have been arrested and charged with Imran Khan's murder.

A report by the West of Scotland Community Relations Council, which covers Glasgow, shows a big increase in racial attacks. There were 270 complaints in the 11 months to March this year, compared to 180 in the 12 months to the previous April.

The report says that racism is institutionalised in Scotland. One particular area of concern is education. "Schools tend to be flashpoints where racial incidents happen, and although we have seen racial fights in schools like Shawlands Academy and Belahouston Academy in Glasgow for years, it has unfortunately taken a death for people to realise that it has gotten out of hand," said Maggie Chetty of the Community Relations Council.

Dundee

A man who shouted racist abuse at an Asian shopkeeper, and threatened him with violence, denied he was a racist.

Errol Frank Johnston, 30, admitted conducting himself in a disorderly manner at the Mini Food Store, shouting racist abuse and stealing three cream eggs.

Passing sentence, Sheriff Donald said he frequently heard claims that there was no racism in Scotland. "It seems to me it is inbred and endemic," he stated.

Johnston was fined £300.

Newcastle

A residents' association in Newcastle's West End has been given a lottery grant to protect properties following a spate of racist attacks.

The Arthur's Hill Asian Residents Association received £153,000 to improve security. Shubh Ghai, the association's coordinator, said: "I'm absolutely delighted that we've been awarded this money. People in our association have experienced attacks, break-ins and repeated criminal damage to their properties."

Yorkshire

A new Asian restaurant in the village of Cononley has been attacked by racists. The Balti Hut, which has not yet opened, has suffered broken windows, walls daubed with paint and glue poured into locks. A car parked nearby, belonging to a neighbour, was daubed with racist abuse.

Raj Ali and Abdul Motin, both 24, from Keighley, said the attacks had made them more determined to succeed.

Mary Peet, wife of Cononley's vicar John Peet, said villagers were outraged by the attacks and that Mr Ali had the support and sympathy of local people.

Sheffield

Irish youngsters in Sheffield have experienced a growing level of harassment over the past six months. There have been at least four cases of attempted suicide following abuse.

Recently two children aged 11 and 12 took overdoses after being taunted about being Irish. Fortunately they both survived.

In another case a 15-year-old girl attempted suicide. Her mother said: "Kids wrote on my daughter's clothes the words 'Irish bastard'. They said they were going to kill her. She was spat on and became afraid to walk down the street. At 15 she attempted suicide on St Patrick's night."

In Parson Cross bricks were thrown through the windows of Irish people's houses. In Walkley two Irish students were followed out of a pub and beaten up. In Low Edges faeces were posted through an Irish family's letterbox. In Foxhill a woman in her seventies had to move after being abused, while in Netherhope a 10-year-old boy was spat at in the street.

Peter Moore, director of Sheffield Racial Equality Unit, said the level of harassment was causing concern. "Irish people are disproportionately affected by discrimination in terms of being the victims of crime and being stopped by police," he added.

Sheffield's Irish Forum says there are about 10,000 people in the city who are Irish born or of Irish descent. In March an Irish Festival was held to promote Irish culture and bring the communities together.

Liverpool

A dinner lady is reported to have made racist remarks to a 10-year-old boy. She still works at the school and parents have launched a petition demanding a full enquiry.

The father of the pupil at Pleasant Street School said his son had refused food after he had seen the dinner lady rummaging in a bin and biting into some waffles before serving them.

He said: "The word that she used is the worst word that you can call a black person. My son is very strong minded and he was very shocked. He finished his pudding and went off to the office to report what had happened."

In a letter to the boy's parents, Robert Short, chair of the school governors, says the dinner lady insists that the words she used were "stupid plonker", and not racist abuse. He admits that "some of the pupils on the boy's dining table support his allegation".

Another parent, Norma Mekki, has launched a petition to present to the head teacher. She said: "My son heard the remark and told the head teacher what had happened. We will not accept racism. I did not send my son to school to listen to racist remarks."

Nottingham

Victims of racist abuse have spoken on video about their experiences so that police officers can learn to respond more effectively.

Anna, a black working mother, suffered dog faeces pushed through her letterbox. She and her young children were too frightened to go out to the shops in case they were attacked by racist youths.

It took two years before Nottingham Council acknowledged there was a problem and things only improved when she contacted the police. "Somebody was listening to me at last and believing what I was saying. It certainly changed my opinion of the police."

Rajiv, an Asian restaurant owner, said police refused to listen to complaints that his wife, who does not speak English, was being verbally abused by a neighbour. Eventually a police translator heard the wife's account of the abuse, which had gone on for five years. "When he heard what we had been going through in our own language he couldn't believe it," said Rajiv.

Birmingham

Birmingham Magistrates Court has dealt with members of a racist mob who chanted "Paki" outside Mrs Surinder Jandu's home in Ladywood last August. Mrs Jandu was at home with her two young children when a stone crashed through a window.

Kathleen Mahoney, 52, a neighbour of Mrs Jandu, admitted criminal damage by throwing the stone. She was fined £75, ordered to pay £40 costs and bound over to be of good behaviour for 12 months in the sum of £150.

Elaine Fitzgerald, 41, admitted shouting racial abuse and was bound over for 12 months in the sum of £100.

A 16-year-old girl was bound over for six months. Another 16-year-old girl was sent for trial at Birmingham Youth Court, charged with harassment and assault.

More serious charges of harassment against the three who appeared before the court were dropped by the prosecution.

Gloucester

A branch of Tesco's has banned Gypsies from its store.

The St Oswald's Road store imposed the blanket ban on all Gypsies camped at the Cattle Market after some of them were allegedly disruptive.

Christian campaigner Rob MacLean, accompanied by Tony Gomez from Gloucestershire Race Equality Council, witnessed Gypsies being turned away.

Mr Gomez said: "If an individual is disruptive, it's right they should be banned. But to ban the whole group for the actions of one or two is wrong. We are referring the matter to the Commission for Racial Equality."

Bristol

SARI, the charity which gives support to victims of racism, has reported a 60 per cent increase in calls for help in 1997.

The Bristol-based group receives calls from all over the West Country, as far as Devon. In Bristol SARI has put pressure on the council to rehouse victims of racial abuse and to evict racist tenants.

In Somerset, an Indian restaurant owner has faced constant attacks on his premises and damage to his car. He is on medication for insomnia and depression and is frightened to go out alone. "I don't know how much more I can take," he said.

In Yeovil, where SARI would like to fund a case worker, racial attacks increased from 19 to 34 last year. Two years ago, Paddy Ashdown, MP, was attacked by a knife-wielding thug when he went to investigate a series of racist attacks in the town.

Swansea

The British National Party has distributed leaflets aimed at refugees from the volcano which has devastated the Caribbean island of Montserrat.

The leaflets say: "South Wales doesn't have any vacancies for banana growers. They have been living off hand-outs ever since a volcano wrecked their island.

"With nothing to do and with many families split up, the majority of their young people have turned to drink, drugs and crime."

The BNP leaflet followed an offer by Swansea City and County Council of some of its vacant council homes to some of the 4,000 Montserratian refugees. Most of the refugees have gone to neighbouring Caribbean countries. The few that have travelled to Britain have gone to areas which have existing Montserratian communities, such as Birmingham or London.

Phil Parkes, Anti Nazi League spokesman for South Wales, said: "This is the kind of opportunist and nasty campaigning we expect from the BNP, which has been targeting South Wales. The party believes that people living in areas of high unemployment, such as the South Wales valleys, might be vulnerable to its kinds of policies which most people would find totally unacceptable."

Peter Black, leader of Swansea City and County Council's Liberal Democrat group, asked South Wales Police to consider prosecuting the publishers for racial incitement. Replying, Superintendent Bob Evans, head of the Swansea North Division, wrote: "Having inquired into this matter and sought the advice of the Crown Prosecution Service, I am able to inform you that the available evidence does not constitute an offence."

Mr Black expressed his disappointment at the decision but said: "I am confident that the BNP will not find Swansea to be a good recruiting ground".

Tenby

A thug who threatened to beat up three Asian waiters with a baseball bat, cried his eyes out when one of them threw curry powder in his face.

Waiter Bodar Uddin, 25, was sitting in his car with two friends outside a nightclub, when Christopher Astley, 19, approached.

Astley said he had a baseball bat in his car and shouted "Come on Pakis, fight us tonight". When they ignored him, Astley smashed the driver's window with his fist and tried to drag Mr Uddin out, badly cutting his neck.

Mr Uddin then threw some extra hot Vindaloo curry powder and Astley fled with tears streaming down his face. By the time he arrived at the police station, he was sobbing that he was blind. He was taken to hospital, where doctors washed his eyes out.

In court, Judge Gaskell told Astley: "This was disgraceful behaviour. You abused them with racist language and then attacked Mr Uddin."

Astley admitted affray and was fined £1,250. He was also ordered to pay Mr Uddin £250 compensation, £74 to repair his car and £300 prosecution costs.

Islington

A mixed race family in Islington has suffered years of racist abuse, according to the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

Mrs M, 41, is Asian and her 49-year-old husband is black. They have five children. Harassment began two months after the family moved to their housing association flat in Highbury.

Mrs M's son, Greg, who was nine, was beaten up by a gang of white teenagers. Three weeks later he was attacked again, was racially abused and his bike was stolen.

When he moved to secondary school, white children bullied him and called him racist names. Mrs M said the teachers were generally unsympathetic and that one referred to Greg and his friends as "the niggers".

Mrs M said that Greg has also been regularly stopped by the police and on one occasion was racially abused. Greg's younger brothers, David and James, have also suffered from verbal racial abuse.

Two years ago, the family started to get National Front leaflets and hate mail, including death threats, through their letterbox. The stress led to the break-up of the marriage and Mrs M suffered a nervous breakdown.

Advised by her doctor to go away for a break, Mrs M left her children with a neighbour, whose son Kevin, 13, had previously called her children racist names. When Mrs M was away, Kevin sexually assaulted her daughters, aged two and three, and James aged eight.

Mrs M is now planning to take civil action against several of the racists who have been abusing her family.

She said: "The people who have mistreated my children should have had the book thrown at them, but all too often the authorities don't seem to care".

In early March the NSPCC held a national conference on racial bullying, funded by the European Year Against Racism. The aim was to bring young people together with policy makers and care workers to develop a strategy to combat the racism that affects children.

Ku Klux Klan man jailed

A man who sent racist mail to the Lord Provost of Dundee has been jailed for three months.

Ian Christie, 60, wrote on paper headed "The Scottish Order of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan".

His sick ramblings included the words: "The opening of the horrible sepulchre is nigh and the black cat creeps through the grave yard as the midnight owl screams."

The letter, sent two days before a Dundee library was renamed the Nelson Mandela Centre, referred to "the cannibal Mandela".

Sentencing Christie, Sheriff Kenneth Forbes said he had failed to accept that his offence was an unpleasant thing to do. He said Christie was "seeking to promote an attitude of white supremacy in a most sinister and dangerous form."

Christie was traced through a thumb print on the letter.

Black prisoners suffer violence and death

An inquest jury decided that Alton Manning was unlawfully killed, despite government attempts at a cover-up. The verdict comes at a time when the prison service is facing allegations of brutality, particularly against black prisoners.

In Wormwood Scrubs, nine prison officers were suspended after detailed and serious allegations of brutality, concerning mainly black prisoners. And in Swansea, four black men, held on remand in Swansea Prison for crimes they did not commit, are suing the Home Office after they were attacked by a 40 strong mob of white prisoners.

Alton Manning, 33, from Sparkbrook, Birmingham, was killed on 8 December 1995 at the privately run Blakenhurst Prison.

He had refused to squat for a degrading internal examination. One warder claimed that internal examinations were standard procedure at Blakenhurst, in clear breach of prison guidelines.

Manning was then restrained in a neck hold, again in breach of prison regulations. An inmate said: "Manning was struggling. At first only one officer had a hold on him then others arrived and he was carried face down, with an officer on each leg and each arm and one on the neck."

As he was dragged from his cell he passed two security cameras. When detectives came to examine the tapes they found that they had been wiped clean.

Dr Helen Whitwell said Manning had died of asphyxia due to pressure on his neck during restraint. There were numerous injuries, including eight bruises on his face, bruises on his neck, and blood spots on his eyes. The prison officers denied that a neck hold was used.

When Coroner Victor Round said he would allow the inquest jury to consider a verdict of unlawful killing, lawyers for the government and for United Kingdom Detention Services, which runs the prison, took out an injunction.

The injunction was thrown out by a High Court judge, and the jury returned its unlawful killing verdict on 25 March.

Seven prison officers were suspended on full pay while the Crown Prosecution Service decides whether to bring charges. In the light of previous cases, this seems unlikely. An internal Home Office inquiry previously exonerated the officers, while a Prison Service spokesman said a full investigation was "not deemed necessary".

Deborah Coles, co-director of the campaign group Inquest, said the death was "a shocking indictment of the failure at individual and management level within Blakenhurst and the UKDS as well as the Prison Service to learn lessons from previously violent deaths in prisons".

She called for a CPS investigation and a Home Office inquiry into the death and those of Kenneth Severin and Dennis Stevens, other black men who died under restraint in prison between October and December 1995.

Six of the seven people who died in prisons while being restrained since 1992 have been black, with the seventh of mixed race. Speaking immediately after the unlawful killing verdict, Richard Tilt, director general of the Prison Service, tried to explain this fact by claiming, "Afro-Caribbean people are more likely to suffer positional asphyxia than whites". Positional asphyxia occurs when someone is held in a face down position and pressure is put on their windpipe.

A later statement from the Prison Service linked the alleged vulnerability of black people to the inherited sickle cell condition. It was pointed out that only one of the seven who have died in custody since 1992 had this condition. Nat Cary, pathologist at Papworth hospital, said no normal carrier of sickle cell condition would ever expect to get into difficulties unless they were put under very powerful and extreme restraints.

Deborah Coles of Inquest, said: "I find it totally offensive that straight after an inquest jury has unanimously decided that a black prisoner was unlawfully killed, Richard Tilt is trying to deflect attention away from prison officers with racist theories rather than focusing on the fact that disproportionate numbers of black prisoners die in custody".

Tilt later apologised for the offence his remarks had caused and insisted, "I am not a racist". Joyce Quin, the minister responsible for prisons, said there was no question of Tilt resigning and that "charges of racism are utterly ludicrous".

More then 20 former and serving prisoners at Wormwood Scrubs have complained of systematic violence at the jail. About 20 prison officers have been accused of the attacks and of racist abuse.

Many of those who have suffered the alleged attacks are black, and in one incident it is alleged that a man was forced to eat a "Black is Beautiful" poster, which had been ripped from his cell wall.

Solicitors Hickman and Rose, who are representing many of the prisoners, say that one prisoner said he had been beaten up by staff almost every day for a month. "I would say the allegations in that case amount to torture", a spokesman for the solicitors said.

In another case officers are alleged to have grabbed a prisoner by the throat and kicked and beat him until he urinated.

Nick Flynn, of the Prison Reform Trust, said: "I think it's a failure of the internal watchdog and monitoring system if allegations have been made for several years and prisoners have been walking round with visible signs of abuse and black prisoners have been victims of abuse. It's a huge indictment of the complaints and monitoring system". He called for a full judicial review.

The Prison Service at first announced only an internal inquiry and refused to suspend the officers accused of brutality. Eventually, two weeks later, after prisoners who had made complaints said they were being intimidated, nine officers were suspended.

The Metropolitan Police is now carrying out a full criminal investigation into the allegations.

Four Birmingham men are suing the Home Office for damages after they were attacked by a racist mob in Swansea Prison.

Marnon Thomas, 37, Nigel Johnson, 38, Hopeton Falconer, 32, and Patrick Campbell, 38, are all Afro-Caribbean. They were held for three months in Swansea Prison in September 1994 on robbery charges, which were later dropped.

In prison they were attacked by a 40-strong mob of white prisoners and beaten with snooker cues and balls.

The High Court writ claims that the prison failed to take reasonable care to protect the men and that after the attack a "reasonable level" of medical care was not provided.

RED ROUTE
No stopping at any time
POLICE

New barriers for asylum seekers

The government is to fine Eurostar £2,000 for every person it carries from Brussels to London without proper travel documents. Many asylum seekers lack travel documents for obvious reasons, and will not be able to set foot in Britain.

The government is also expected to announce a new fast deportation system based on the Dutch model. Immigrants would be interviewed, detained and deported within a week.

In a key ruling the House of Lords has narrowed the definition of a refugee. In future refugees will have to prove that they are under greater risk of persecution than other members of a persecuted group. Under this logic most Jews fleeing Nazi Germany would not have been granted asylum.

The case concerned Hassan Adan, who fled ethnic conflict in Somalia in 1988, arriving in Britain in 1990. He said that as a member of the Habarawal sub clan of the Issaq clan, he would suffer persecution if he returned to Somalia.

The law lords said that Mr Adan would have to prove that he was at greater risk than other members of his clan.

Funding cut for race body

The government has slashed funding to the Commission for Racial Equality by almost £1 million. A further cut is promised next year.

The cuts will reduce the ability of the CRE to support people at industrial tribunals in racial harassment cases.

Sir Herman Ouseley, chairman of the CRE, said: "Because of the cuts to our grant in recent years we are effectively trying to police race relations on a shoestring. This latest cut will force the CRE into just covering its core activities."

Next year's CRE grant will be £14.08 million. In 1995/96, under the Tories, the CRE grant was over £16 million. The cut is exacerbated by inflation.

The cut came a few days after Prime Minister Tony Blair told a meeting of successful Asian business people that: "The modern Britain I want to create is worth nothing if it is built on intolerance towards those of a different colour, religion or beliefs."

The CRE has cut its funding to the Northern Claimant Aid Fund, based in Bradford. The NCAF, which has won many key industrial tribunal cases on racial discrimination and harassment, faces closure.

NF
WORCE
West End
480
POLICE

NF thugs and football hooligans link up in an anti-Irish protest in north London in January

Life after the Sargents
The nazis play on

It is 18 months since *Searchlight* launched its “Shut Down the Peddlers of Hate” campaign against the illegal neo-nazi music business that earns its organisers hundreds of thousands of pounds. In that time our investigations have resulted in the imprisonment of a man in Wales responsible for organising the production of the CDs and the instigation of similar official enquiries in Sweden, Denmark and Germany. *Searchlight*’s exposés have also forced Combat 18 to move its ISD Records operation overseas.

In the first of two articles, *Searchlight* looks at the current state of the British neo-nazi music scene and its older umbrella group Blood and Honour. The second article will explore its rival, Rock Against Communism.

Graham Thompson, lead singer of Avalon and organiser of Blood and Honour gigs in the West Midlands

The neo-nazi music scene has been effectively decimated over the past two years after a succession of splits and feuds. First came the split between the Combat 18-controlled Blood and Honour and those opposed to the neo-nazi terror group. By the end of 1996 opposition to Blood and Honour was organised around a new group which, however, adopted an old name, Rock Against Communism. By 1997 Blood and Honour itself was beginning to suffer as C18 split apart. Today, neo-nazi music is only a shadow of its former self.

Gigs continue around the country but are less regular and certainly smaller than in recent years. Few have more than 100 followers and none attract over 200. This must be compared to the heady days of the mid-1990s when, under C18 control, Blood and Honour attracted 500 supporters to a gig in Kent and 400 to a gig in Caerphilly in South Wales.

Most of the recent events organised by Blood and Honour have been held in the East and West Midlands. Those in the West Midlands have generally been in the Coventry area, under the stewardship of Graham Thompson, lead singer of the band Avalon.

The Avon sports centre in Coventry was the final gathering place of what was left of the nazis intending to join the failed “Aryan Music Fest” last summer. Thompson has used it for Avalon on a number of occasions and the nazis have viewed it as one of their most secure and lucrative venues. On the other side of the region, Steve Swingfen, a former member of the Windsor chapter of the Hells Angel, has been putting on events in Northamptonshire.

With each gig in the Midlands, the audience has grown smaller and a mood of despondency has set in. “Why should we bother going to gigs to hear the same crap bands and see the same few people,” one Blood and Honour follower told *Searchlight*. “It’s not like the old days when bands like Skrewdriver and Paul Burnley’s No Remorse had real quality.”

The dwindling numbers are largely, but not exclusively, the result of the internal divisions that have ripped through nazi music during the past two years. They also reflect a far deeper problem for the neo-nazi music scene: the diminishing number of skinheads in Britain. While the skinhead scene is flourishing in several European countries, especially in the east, in Britain for all intents and purposes it died in the mid-1980s. With the exception of a few individuals, young neo-nazis are not skinheads. Those that are look like some throwback to the seventies.

Over the years C18 members have prided themselves on their “casual” appearance, wearing the designer label clothes associated with the football hooligan fashion. “Skinheads are basically wankers,” Steve Sargent, a former leading player in Blood and Honour, told an *Independent on Sunday* journalist. “The only skinheads are Reds and queers.”

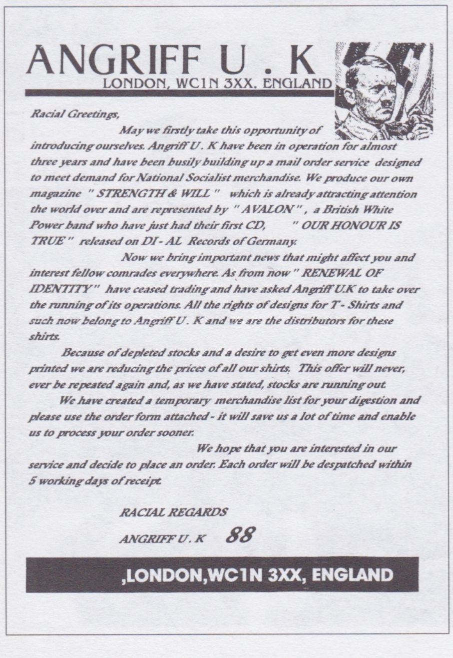
That is not to say that C18 football casuals have not gone to, and even organised, concerts over the past five years. However, the gigs have been more of a social event than anything else. Few go for the music, which by any measure is fairly dire, but more for the opportunity to meet old friends. With the demoralised mood that has swept Blood and Honour over the past two years even this is less appealing than it once was.

The majority of those attending the concerts now are in their late twenties and thirties. As time passes, fewer young people will go and the concerts will become ever more isolated.

It is not that no new people are being attracted. One worrying recent development has been the re-emergence of a vibrant right-wing scene in the Northeast, where it has been dormant for several years. Two months ago a Blood and Honour event in the region attracted over 100 right-wingers, most local.

Again many were not skinheads, with several drawn from the hooligan followers of Sunderland FC. However, once again the gig proved a compelling social event in a region where the nazis are widely dispersed.

Tensions have begun to emerge within Blood and Honour over the actual purpose of putting on concerts. For the leaders of C18, the music and merchandising spinoffs are simply an opportunity to make money to fund their illegal terrorist activities. For many of the more traditional skinheads, in their boots and tight jeans, the music is the limit of their political activity. These are mere weekend rebels who don their costumes on a Saturday night. C18’s newly declared strategy of ter-



ANGRIFF U . K
LONDON, WC1N 3XX. ENGLAND

Racial Greetings,

May we firstly take this opportunity of introducing ourselves. Angriff U . K have been in operation for almost three years and have been busily building up a mail order service designed to meet demand for National Socialist merchandise. We produce our own magazine " STRENGTH & WILL " which is already attracting attention the world over and are represented by " AVALON " , a British White Power band who have just had their first CD, " OUR HONOUR IS TRUE " released on DI - AL Records of Germany.

Now we bring important news that might affect you and interest fellow comrades everywhere. As from now " RENEWAL OF IDENTITY " have ceased trading and have asked Angriff U.K to take over the running of its operations. All the rights of designs for T - Shirts and such now belong to Angriff U . K and we are the distributors for these shirts.

Because of depleted stocks and a desire to get even more designs printed we are reducing the prices of all our shirts. This offer will never, ever be repeated again and, as we have stated, stocks are running out.

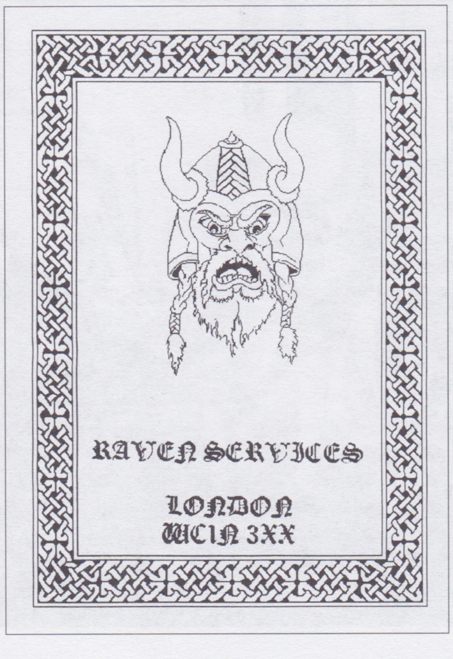
We have created a temporary merchandise list for your digestion and please use the order form attached - it will save us a lot of time and enable us to process your order sooner.

We hope that you are interested in our service and decide to place an order. Each order will be despatched within 5 working days of receipt.

RACIAL REGARDS

ANGRIFF U . K ***88***

,LONDON,WC1N 3XX, ENGLAND



Mick Dunn of Chingford Attack, one of the new leaders of Blood and Honour

Above: Darren Wells (centre, foreground), on last year's Apprentice Boys march in London, one of C18's remaining supporters on the music scene. Below: The shop in Kiel, north Germany, where police seized 30,000 illegal racist and nazi CDs in a raid last October

NO MERCY RECORDS
CD's LP's SHIRTS

rorism is something with which they certainly do not want to become embroiled.

The conflict between the skinheads and C18 casuals surfaced while C18's leader, Will Browning, was in jail. "Blood and Honour should be non-party political," the skins said. "C18 shouldn't have control over Blood and Honour like it used to." When Browning was released, the same people who were spreading these whispers were falling over themselves to deny they had done so.

The first open sign of conflict occurred at a gig in London at the beginning of December, when fighting broke out between the casuals and skins. It was instigated by Andy Frain, a leading Chelsea Headhunter football hooligan, who proceeded to headbutt any skinhead he came across. The fighting spread as Browning's sidekick, Darren Wells, attacked Thompson. The divisions were set in. While the evening did not result in a clear break between skins and casuals, it reinforced the private view of many Blood and Honour skins that C18 was nothing but trouble.

Leading Blood and Honour these days are Simon Dutton from west London, Mick Dunn from Chingford, Chris Hipkin from Derby, Thompson and Swingfen.

With the exception of Hipkin, who likes to please everyone, the Blood and Honour leadership has few good words to say about Browning. The feeling is mutual, as he dismisses them as money-making part-timers. Of particular annoyance to the C18 leader has been the explosion in nazi merchandising around the music scene. When Browning launched ISD Records in 1994, he was entering new territory. Until then, right-wing music had always been produced through private commercial operations, such as Rock-a-Rama in Germany.

Where Browning led, others followed, and in many ways this was an integral part of the music feuds over the past couple of years, as bands became increasingly reluctant to hand over their music for others to make money. Today a gig resembles a Turkish bazaar, with merchandising stalls littering the venues and some hawkers bringing their own tables to every gig. At one gig before Christmas there were at least eight different stalls selling CDs, magazines, T-shirts, buckles and even bomber jackets.

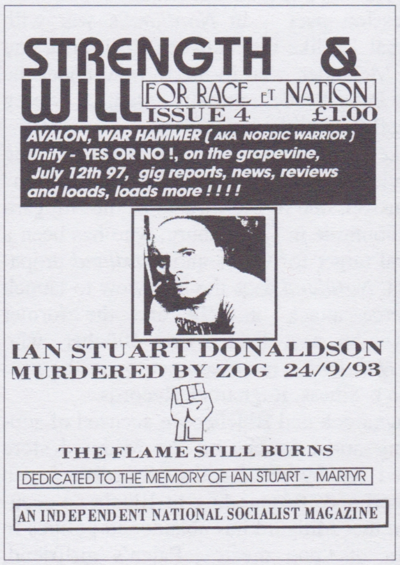
The two principle merchandising outlets in Blood and Honour are Angriff, run by Thompson, and Raven Services, owned by Dunn. A glance at the new Raven catalogue shows belt buckles, sweatshirts, boots and bomber jackets, all of which Dunn transports to the gigs in his car.

C18 no longer operates a commercial outlet of its own in Britain. After the initial success of Searchlight's "Shut Down the Peddlers of Hate" campaign, which resulted in Leighton Gareth Jones being imprisoned for six months, C18 moved its operation to Scandinavia. There it has become almost indistinguishable from Marcel Schilf's NS88 and NS Records empire.

There has been talk for some time that ISD Records, through Schilf, was going to release a number of CDs, but nothing has materialised so far. With the authorities now looking for any reason to act against C18, anyone involved in its CD business must expect police interest.

Schilf has become an integral part of the C18 network, producing music and propaganda for C18. Needless to say, the content is markedly different from what is put out by the more skinhead-orientated Blood and Honour publications in Britain. In issue 1 of *Blood and Honour Scandinavia*, a 20- page glossy magazine, the reader is left in no doubt as to the intentions of those behind the publication. Its pages are filled with interviews with convicted nazi bombers, photographs of their supporters training with guns and the promise of violence in the future. "Friends and foes will learn more of us in the coming months and years," the editorial reads.

In theory there are 14 bands backing Blood and Honour at present. In reality the number of active bands is probably no more than six. Several others claim to be forming, yet have not played at a gig, while others, such as No Remorse, now exist only on paper.



STRENGTH &
WILL FOR RACE ET NATION
ISSUE 4 £1.00
AVALON, WAR HAMMER (AKA NORDIC WARRIOR)
Unity - YES OR NO !, on the grapevine,
July 12th 97, gig reports, news, reviews
and loads, loads more ! ! ! !

IAN STUART DONALDSON
MURDERED BY ZOG 24/9/93

THE FLAME STILL BURNS
DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF IAN STUART - MARTYR
AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL SOCIALIST MAGAZINE

There is little more activity when it comes to publications, with only two magazines currently doing the rounds. Hipkin has folded his *British Oi* operation and re-emerged producing *Blood and Honour*. After much anticipation the result has had a somewhat cool reception. "It's *British Oi* with a different name," several right-wingers are currently moaning. The other magazine is *Strength and Will*, another product from the highly active Thompson.

How Blood and Honour will develop is uncertain. The feud with those organised around Rock Against Communism has largely been settled, at least for the moment, with an agreed mutual coexistence. Relationships are still cool but with the general nazi music scene so small, all sides recognise the futility of conflict.

The greatest danger for Blood and Honour lies within their ranks, principally the ongoing differences between the musically minded skinheads and the casual followers of C18. If Browning loses control of himself again, as he has been threatening to do lately, then the movement will be irredeemably split.

Nordland says no deal with Combat 18

With the veteran nazi Peter Melander at the helm, *Nordland* magazine is abandoning all pretence of being anything other than what it has always been: an antisemitic nazi propaganda machine. The latest edition of *Nordland* is more "political" than ever before.

Echoing its forerunner organisation, White Aryan Resistance (VAM), *Nordland* pays tribute to the US nazi Robert Jay Mathews and the defunct American terrorist organisation, The Order. Another eight pages are devoted to an interview with William Pierce, author of the infamous terrorist bible, *The Turner Diaries*, which was a source of inspiration for the Oklahoma bomber Timothy McVeigh.

Although the skinhead world is rife with rumours of a peace agreement – or non-aggression pact – in *Nordland*'s war with Combat 18, like that between Resistance and C18, Melander, who formerly went under the name Peter Rindell, remains intent on wiping C18 off the political map.

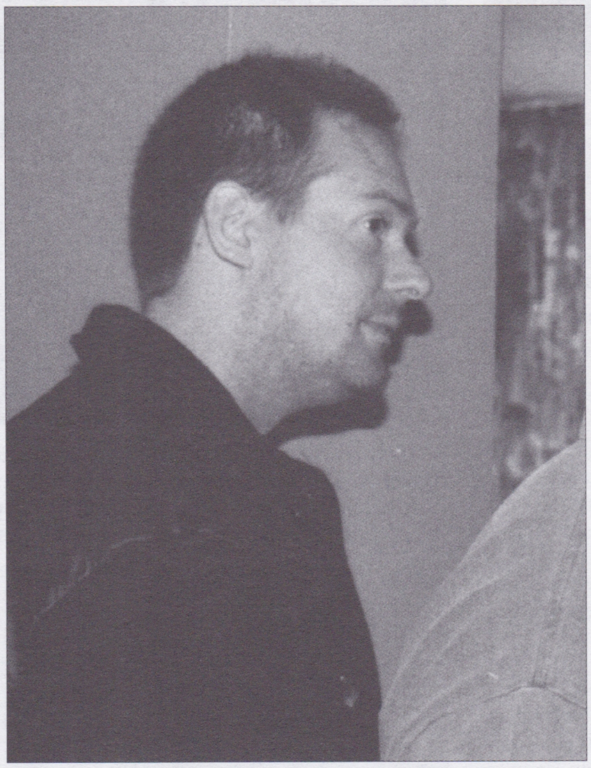
A key piece in the latest *Nordland* is a long interview with Per-Anders "Pajen" Johansson, one of the owners of the Midgård nazi boutique in Gothenburg, who has been a central target for C18's anti-*Nordland* propaganda. *Nordland* uses the interview to launch a fierce attack on C18 and the former Norwegian nazi leader Eric Blücher, who runs *Nordland*'s main competitor in the nazi music business, Ragnarock Records.

Ragnarock and Blücher are accused of supporting arson attacks on the Midgård store carried out by the fanatical Swedish Aryan Brotherhood. Responding to Blücher's accusation that Midgård has abandoned politics in favour of "pop music", Pajen's girlfriend, Lena, brutally dismisses Blücher as a "disgusting old man, close to 40" who is hiding behind a series of anonymous post boxes. C18 is dismissed as an MI5-infiltrated "cancerous tumour" in the nationalist movement.

According to Pajen, C18's threats started after his exposure of C18's former street leader – and police informer – Charlie Sargent as a drug dealer. This resulted in a dozen C18 boneheads travelling to Gothenburg to kill Pajen. "It is a pathetic embarrassment how the remains of C18 are now throwing mud at Charlie Sargent and saying that he looks like a drooling mongo [*sic*] … does he look any different today compared with what he looked like then?" states Pajen.

To add insult to injury, *Nordland* ends the Pajen interview quoting the jailed US nazi terrorist killer David Lane stating that "the C18 leadership are either Zionist agents or so ignorant and dangerous that they may just as well be exactly that".

Notable in *Nordland*'s international contact list are Aryan Nations, the Church of the Creator, the National Alliance and the Institute for Historical Review in the United States; Rampage Records, *Final Conflict*, *Highlander* and *Saxon* in the UK and the Werner Symanek publishing house, *Rock Nord*, *Nationaler Beobachter*, *Einheit und Kampf* and Destiny Records in Germany.



Peter Rindell, now styling himself Peter Melander, editor and publisher of Nordland

Some years ago, *Searchlight*'s European editor alerted Swedish anti-nazis, the media and authorities to the potential dangers of a small nazi skinhead fanzine. The name of that fanzine was *Streetfight*. The year was 1987.

At the time, *Searchlight*'s warning was met with equal measures of doubt and scepticism among anti-fascists, who dismissed *Streetfight* simply as rubbish. And to be fair, at the time *Streetfight* was not an impressive sight. It consisted of a few barely literate pages of typewritten junk run off on an office copying machine. Circulation was rather fewer than a hundred copies.

However, it was not the layout that struck us as interesting, but the small and disturbing signs that a group of Swedish nazis was looking for inspiration abroad and actively forming links to the most violent parts of the international fascist movement.

Back in 1986, Sweden had about 150 skinheads, already shaping their own policy formula outside established extreme-right parties such as the now defunct Keep Sweden Swedish (BSS) and the traditionally Hitlerite Nordic Reich Party (NRP). *Streetfight* was published by a small group of nazi skins in Södertälje, an industrial town south of Stockholm. Key members of the Streetfight group were Göran Gustavsson and Peter Rindell.

Together with Niels Mandell, a former street leader of the NRP's Action Groups, they took part in forming the organisation Rock Against Communism (RMK), patterned after the British prototype of the same name. RMK became the cradle of the political skinhead movement.

NORDLAND
STÖVELTRAMPEN EKAR IGEN!
PLUTON SVEA
RICHARD WAGNER
STYRKA GER MAKT
DU GAMLA, DU FRIA
INFÖR ÅR 2000
FÖRINTA SVENSKHETEN
ÄR TILLBAKA!
SIGRBLOT
STURMWEHR
KREATIVISTENS KYRKA
EN RASLIG RELIGION ENLIGT DE EVIGA NATURLAGARNA

Swedish nazi skins were already linking up with their counterparts abroad. *Streetfight* was part of White Noise, launched by British nazi Ian Stuart Donaldson but hijacked by the "political soldiers" wing of the National Front. Donaldson's aim was to rebuild White Noise as Blood and Honour with the perspective of a European nazi skinhead movement. Sweden was one of the countries where he was dipping a toe into the water. The first issue of *Streetfight* thanked Donaldson. Other acknowledgements went to Ulf "I have never been a nazi" Hansen, of the big-name Swedish nazi band Ultima Thule, and to the skinhead band New Dawn, from Greenock, Scotland.

More disturbing, however, were the political addresses advertised in the magazine: those of the British Movement and the "political soldiers" wing of the NF in Britain, and of Aryan Nations in the USA. This firmly connected *Streetfight* with the most violent pro-terrorist groups in the international nazi underworld.

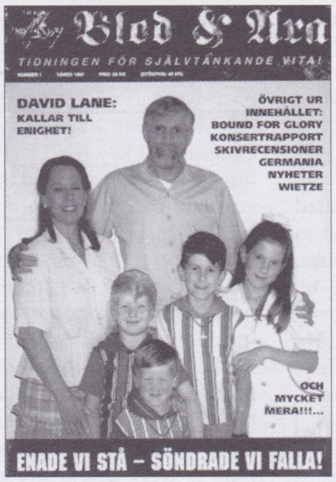
The go-between in the contacts with Donaldson was Tommy Edwards, a Liverpool bonehead and NF member, who lived in Sweden from 1986 to 1989 and was a founding member of RMK. One of Edwards's jobs was to set up links between Swedish nazis and the Graham Williamson faction of the NF.

On 2 November 1986, Edwards chaired an RMK meeting in Södertälje which decided to invite Donaldson's band, Skrewdriver, to Sweden. Donaldson came in 1987 to meet the Södertälje mob. He liked what he saw.

Sitting at a kitchen table in Södertälje, the nazis hammered out a deal. The Swedish nazis, represented by Rindell and Gustavsson, wanted to produce a new kind of white power magazine to replace *Streetfight*. Donaldson agreed to finance, print and distribute the new paper.

The result was *White Rebel*, a lunatic expression of nazi pipe-dreams. Its first issue, subtitled "White revolution without mercy", called for the formation of an Aryan "Storm Abteilung" prepared to launch an armed

Above left: Tommy Edwards, link man between British and Swedish nazis in the late 1980s. Above right: nazi music producer Marcel Schilf, who has aligned himself with C18, as has Eric Blücher (below), boss of Nordland's competitor, Ragnarock Records. Below left: the Nordland-sponsored Blod & Ära



Blod & Ära

TIDNINGEN FÖR SJÄLVTÄNKANDE VITA!

DAVID LANE: KALLAR TILL ENIGHET!

ÖVRIGT UR INNEHÅLLET:
BOUND FOR GLORY
KONSERTRAPPORT
SKIVRECENSIONER
GERMANIA
NYHETER
WIETZE

OCH MYCKET MERA!!!...

ENADE VI STÅ – SÖNDRADE VI FALLA!

onslaught against the "ZOG" (Zionist Occupation Government) regime. By the time the third issue appeared at the end of 1989, a police investigation into the activities of Rindell and Gustavsson was under way.

Rindell and Gustavsson were eventually sentenced for incitement to racial hatred. By the time of the verdict, *White Rebel* had already been shelved and replaced with an even more militant paper, the notorious *Storm* magazine.

Storm was a natural development of the ideological process that had begun with RMK and *Streetfight*. Armed with *The Turner Diaries* and based on antisemitic conspiracy theories, *Storm* propagated the establishment of Order-style armed terrorist cells to initiate a racial holy war.

By 1991, a group of Stockholm skinheads led by the convicted killer Klas Lund and John Christopher Rangne, both of whom had been in touch with Rindell and Gustavsson since *Streetfight* days, formed VAM.

Although largely a political failure, thanks to its media notoriety, VAM went about its business of robbing banks and military arms depots with unprecedented efficiency and even hijacked a suburban Stockholm police station to steal 39 Sig-Sauer automatic pistols. Lund and eventually Rangne, as well as some 30 other skinheads connected with VAM, ended up in prison.

Streetfight, *White Rebel* and *Storm* were all published by Rindell and Gustavsson together. In the early 1990s, however, Gustavsson took more of a backseat role, leaving Rindell as the managing director of the white revolution. This was when Rindell changed his name to Melander.

Apart from a sentence for incitement of racial hatred (for his part in publishing *White Rebel*), and a conviction for death threats against two anti-fascist journalists issued by *Storm*, Melander has been very careful not to compromise himself by illegal activities. Indeed, among fellow skinheads he is notorious for never showing up anywhere remotely near a situation that might spell physical danger or legal problems.

There was, however, one minor hiccup in August 1992, when Melander was arrested by the police during a raid on a VAM safe-house in the central Swedish town of Ludvika. The apartment, owned by Patrick Huisman, a VAM activist and convicted bank robber, was also harbouring the nazis David Twaland and Jonas Ledin, both on the run from prison. The police also found a platoon-sized arsenal of weapons and military equipment.

By chance Melander was passing through the town and paid his old pal Huisman a visit on the same morning that the police raid took place. To the police it was an unexpected bonus to be able to bag the *Storm* network's apparent mastermind, but a local prosecutor soon tired of Rindell's whining and dismissed the case against him.

The busting of VAM put the white power movement at a political crossroads. The terrorist or "direct action" agenda had largely been a failure and had put a score of activists behind bars. Nor had the bank robberies generated the large funds needed and internally more than one bonehead was questioning the wisdom of building armed cells.

The debate coincided with the sudden commercial breakthrough of the nazi rock band Ultima Thule and the emergence of the white power music scene. Melander was not one to turn down an opportunity and almost overnight *Storm* was reshaped as a Swedish edition of *Blood and Honour*. But the leadership of the movement had even greater ambitions.

Linking up with the leadership of the violent Reichfront, then led by Torulf Magnusson, Melander was to be a key figure in the launching of yet another nazi magazine: *Nordland*.

Using funds generated by the music scene and probably also by VAM's armed robberies, *Nordland* was shaped as a professional magazine with several pages in full colour. The first issue had a print run of thousands of copies, some of which were circulated free in Swedish schools.

Since then, *Nordland*, with its American sister magazine, *Resistance*, has become the flagship of the international white power music industry. Several 88-page issues have been printed. The magazine is without doubt the most successful project launched by postwar hard-core nazis in Scandinavia and possibly the world.

White power music became not only a commercial success and a machine for generating large funds, it also evolved into a most important propaganda vehicle for the postwar nazi movement.

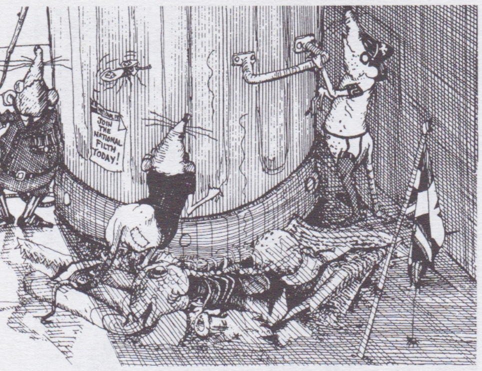
Nordland peaked in 1997. Since then, partly due to the authorities initiating legal procedures against some of the leading nazi music producers and partly as a side effect of the international civil war between *Nordland* and C18/Ragnarock Records, funds have dramatically diminished. Last autumn, *Nordland* was forced to reduce the mystical 88 pages to 64.

Taking his cue from Gustavsson, Melander also opted for a less visible backseat role in the production of *Nordland*. However, following the police raids on all the white power concerts in Sweden this year, the signs are that he may be running out of errand boys. In the most recent edition, Melander has resurfaced … as *Nordland*'s chief editor.

From our Swedish correspondent

As we go to press we understand there has been major police action against Nordland and a large number of CDs have been seized.

news from the sewers


JOIN THE NATIONAL FILTH TODAY!

Since *Searchlight* stopped running "Hill Street News", which took an acidic look at the far right each month, readers have said it is a pity that stories about the nasty little activities of the far right do not appear in the magazine any more unless they fit in a longer feature. So to plug that gap, this month we launch a new column observing the antics of Britain's sewer rats.

March hares

Readers may have noticed that the British National Party has not held a march anywhere since August 1993, and that one ended up a shambles as the nazis unleashed themselves on the media after they had been unceremoniously shoved round the back streets of Victoria, rather than being allowed to parade through central London.

Since late last year the National Front, still seething after seeing the exposure of the BNP's plans for their political future trotted out on television's *The Cook Report* and in the pages of *Searchlight* over two issues, have tried to put the BNP in the shade by holding two anti-Romany marches in Dover, both tiny but noisy enough to get them TV time. They have also started to hold meetings on a regular basis in the Midlands with much larger audiences than the BNP can get, even when they advertise key speakers such as Nick Griffin and the mad bomber Tony Lecomber. The NF even went as far as cheekily holding a one-off "return to Brick Lane", the key London far-right selling point in the postwar years.

Now the NF have stood Linda Miller, *aka* Cooper, in a key BNP ward in east London in the local elections and, to top it all, have announced a march through London on 23 May, which is due to form up in Little Sanctuary at 2.15pm. The obvious closeness to the Catholic Westminster Cathedral may have something to do with the marchers' intention to march against the IRA.

The leafleting by football hooligans of matches up and down the country with the NF's "No Surrender" leaflet advertising the march, and the fact that one of its main organisers is Terry Blackham, a man convicted for attempted gun running to loyalist terrorists, surely has not escaped the eyes and ears of the police, whose head office, Scotland Yard, is just a stone's throw away.

Rumours have been circulating that the BNP might try for an event in south or east London before the local elections on 7 May, but then, they have promised a lot of things they have failed to deliver, such as a civil war in the East End.

Searchlight youth broadsheet snapped up

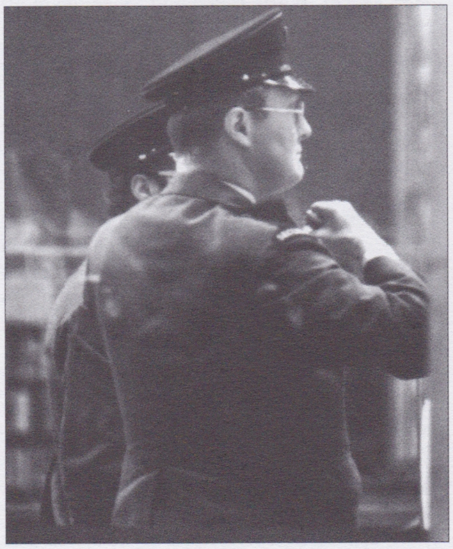
Searchlight Educational Trust has just produced the first edition of a new youth anti-fascist broadsheet called T-34.

The broadsheet includes a round-up on the fascist groups in Britain today, an interview with Asian Dub Foundation and refutations of some common myths regarding racism today.

We have been surprised by the demand for the broadsheet and have distributed copies across Britain, but have targeted the East End of London particularly, because of the high level of fascist activity there. Copies have gone into schools and youth clubs where they are providing an antidote to the fascist lies.

Youth workers have been using T-34 in workshops and we have received an enthusiastic feedback with calls for future editions to be produced.

We have a limited quantity of the broadsheet left. If you would like to receive copies, then please contact us at the Searchlight office.


Gleaves guarding nazis at Kensington Library

In Oldham some gallant gentlemen of the far right have taken to daubing schools with hate material and attacking a street sale by their opponents, during which 15 of them battered a school teacher and terrorised two children.

Want to meet a paedophile?

While the BNP are still pushing out leaflets and articles attacking child molesters, one of the most notorious perverts ever to draw breath in this country, the self-styled "Bishop of Medway", Roger Gleaves, has been put away for 15 years for one more in a lifelong series of attacks on youngsters.

Gleaves came to national attention in a Thames Television documentary, *Johnny Come Home*, about the death of a youngster who fell into this beast's foul clutches. Although he was in and out of prison, no judge had the common sense to put him out of harm's way forever in a maximum security hospital for the insane.

Gleaves starred in *Searchlight* way back, and in the 1980s turned up at a League of St George meeting at Kensington Library with some of his sick associates in the guise of a security firm. *Searchlight*, using its network of agents inside the League, was able to make a photographic record of this charade, much to the embarrassment of League bosses such as Anglo-Irish businessman Mike Griffin and all-time dickhead Keith Thompson.

We at *Searchlight* thought that Gleaves had met his demise during his last stretch inside. Better luck this time, perhaps.

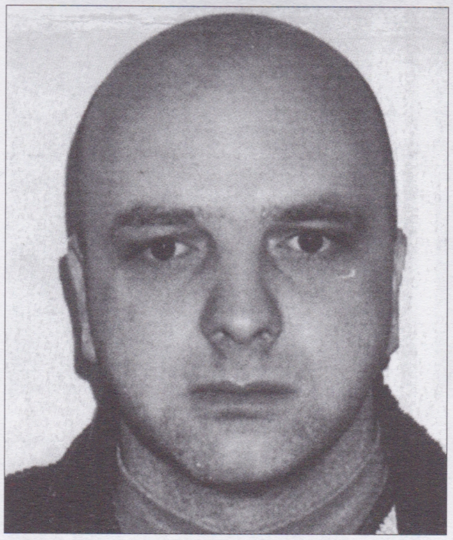
Better nicked than heard

It's hypocrisy time back at the National Front's Blackpool ranch. John Heard, 36, of Chapel Street, Blackpool has just gone down for 21 months after being convicted for acting as a minder for drug dealer Andrew Clarke. Yes, this is the very same Mr Heard who delivered NF anti-drugs leaflets to local schools in 1987, at which time an NF publication described him as an "NF cadre". Local school heads delivered a series of blistering attacks on him.

But there is no keeping rubbish like Heard down. The following year he was convicted and heavily fined for housing benefit fraud. Over the next few years he worked as a doorman, i.e. bouncer, at local pubs and in 1993 he was arrested again, this time for possession of a firearm and intention to commit false imprisonment. His co-defendant in the case was John Barratt, said to be a partner in a firm called Sabre Security. On that occasion Heard got a year in prison.

Another man in that case was James Docherty, who was later convicted of what is thought to have been a homophobic murder, the infamous "body on the beach" case.

In the most recent case, Heard and his partner in crime received what many observers of the local crime scene thought were astonishingly light sentences, as the drug concerned was heroin with a street value of £90,000 and Clarke, like Heard, had previous convictions. Clarke admitted to at least four previous runs to get drugs from Liverpool drug dealers. Heard claimed he had gone along as a minder because Clarke owed the Liverpool drug dealers a lot of money and feared that they might shoot him.



John Heard: anti-drugs campaigner?

After the light sentences the public gallery almost broke into a chorus of that old classic number *Whispering Grass*.

LEARNING FROM THE CONFLICT

Reflections on the struggle against the British National Party on the Isle of Dogs 1993-94

By NICHOLAS HOLTAM and SUE MAYO

With a foreword by GERRY GABLE

This is an account of the response from the local churches. We worked with others in a critical period of our community's life. It was not at all certain that the BNP would be defeated at the local elections in May 1994. That they were is of credit to the many people of the Isle of Dogs and beyond who saw the danger of a racist party becoming established in British public life. In this battle the churches played a central role.

Racism is a feature of British life. **The BNP have not gone away. In the future, in Millwall and elsewhere, people will face many of the issues we worked with between September 1993 and May 1994.** This account is written both to document important events and so that others, especially in the churches, may learn with us.

– from Nicholas Holtam's article.

Nicholas Holtam, now vicar of St Martin in the Fields, was Vicar of Christ Church, Isle of Dogs at the time of the BNP victory. Sue Mayo was the churches' support worker throughout the period.

Available from The Jubilee Group, PO Box 356, Croydon CR9 7DS, or from Searchlight

£3.50 including postage and packing

Congratulations, or lumbered?

After *Searchlight*'s last issue exposed the sinister activities of some of the leading lights in the National Socialist Movement, ranging from paedophilia to satanism to possible murder, comes the news that the main target of our attention has given up the NSM leadership and into his jackboots, or should it be cloven hooves, has stepped store keeper's son Tony Williams. He sounds admirably suited for the task, as he has spent most of his life racing around the leafy lanes of Suffolk in his Porsche, and since the demise of his fascist Dad has found a new interest in Harley Davidson motorcycles.

Williams, who took a degree in travel business management at the University of Brighton's Eastbourne site (yes, our spies are everywhere), still seems to spend most of his time on the Net or producing glossy nazi mags.

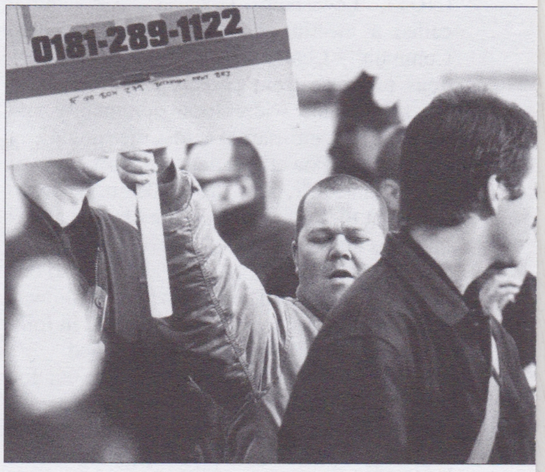
We thought the degree was so he could enter the tourist business with trips to the pyramids, a part of the world he knows well as his late mother was Egyptian. It was a strange marriage for a man holding the racial views of Tony's father, but not unique. Just a spit up the road, in Ipswich, lived another, very mysterious, nazi, A F X Baron, who also married a woman from that country. He met her when visiting exiled SS men in Egypt in the years immediately after the fall of Hitler's Third Reich.

Baron was one of the Britons behind the come-again nazi operation Natinform, based in Sweden and run by a young SS major who, until he was ordered north to neutral Sweden in 1944, had run the concentration camp brothel system in which thousands of woman and children were raped and brutalised.

Baron, a good friend of BNP leader John Tyndall in later years and of other key nazis around the globe, is also strongly suspected of dabbling with the KGB on Oswald Mosley's behalf in the late 1940s. Despite this he was welcome among far-right Tories and pro-Rhodesia supporters in East Anglia during the 1960s and 1970s.

Professor Kurt Tauber's masterwork on postwar international nazism, *Beyond Eagle and Swastika*, published in two volumes in the 1960s, gives a blow by blow account of some of these sinister goings-on. The book, which runs to hundreds of pages with extensive footnotes, may well have acted as an inspiration for Martin Lee's recent book, *The Beast Reawakens*.

Mind you, perhaps William's Junior is reaching out for truth and sanity. He recently took out a subscription to *Searchlight*, apparently a sin worthy of excommunication in the nazi camp these days.



Normally we delete phone numbers so as not to give nazis free advertising. This number is for joining the National Front. Would anyone really want to sign up alongside this specimen of Aryan superman?

Get Searchlight's community responses handbook FREE!

Teachers, youth workers, anti-fascist organisers, police community relations officers and other people working against racism and fascism are invited to apply for a free copy of the highly acclaimed Searchlight Educational Trust handbook, "When Hate Comes to Town" Community Responses to Racism and Fascism.

A very generous donation from a charity that raises money for young people's projects has made this offer possible. The donors have asked us to give priority to those working with young people to help give them a solid start in life against the sick ideas of fascists and racists.

The handbook normally costs £30 for organisations, £20 for community groups and £15 for individuals, plus postage, so this offer represents a real saving for people working in the field.

To obtain a free copy of the handbook, please send your name and address and reason why you qualify under the terms of this donation, plus £5 to cover postage and packing.

Searchlight would welcome any donations to help us further our youth educational work.

Photos: Michael Cohen

Battered teacher comes back fighting

Southeast London has yet again been the scene of an horrific racist attack. Alison Moore, a teacher at Sandhurst Junior School in Catford, was leaving the school after working late one night in February when she was set upon by a gang of four racist thugs.

The attackers shouted racist abuse and laughed at Alison as they left her unconscious after dragging her into nearby bushes. As a result of the attack she spent a week in hospital with internal bleeding, fractured ribs and a cracked pelvis.

On her return home, among get well cards from colleagues and friends, Alison, who is the only black teacher at the school, received a note telling her she would die if she returned to her job.

One night in March, Alison was lying in bed awake, unable to sleep, when at 2.30 in the morning she heard a noise outside. When she went downstairs to investigate she saw a man wearing a balaclava prising open the kitchen window with a chisel. The next morning Alison found a swastika and National Front graffiti daubed on the kitchen door.

Alison has now left the home in which she has lived for the past four years with her six-year-old daughter as she no longer feels safe there.

Alison's colleagues and friends have rallied around her to show the racist cowards that she cannot be driven out of her job. The local branch of the National Union of Teachers (NUT), Lewisham Teachers' Association, called a meeting on 1 April at Downham Community Centre which received a tremendous response from parents and teachers at the school, the wider local community and teachers and anti-racists across the capital.

Martin Powell-Davies, secretary of Lewisham NUT, told the 1,000-strong audience that the union was appalled by the attack and was standing by her and offering her all the support it could because "an injury to one is an injury to all. There is absolutely no way that these racists are going to succeed in forcing Alison out of her job," he continued.

Alison was greeted with a standing ovation as the hall, filled to capacity and with people standing outside, was charged with emotion and anger at what has happened to her.

She outlined the sequence of events that had led to the meeting being called. She told how she loved teaching, Sandhurst being her first placement, and how her mother, who was in the audience, had also been a teacher. She declared that "racism makes you fearful all the time". On a more positive note she told the audience that the lesson of her experience was to "remember to instil respect into the children of today".

POLICE APPEAL FOR ASSISTANCE

CAN YOU HELP?

At about **6.30pm on Monday 9th February 1998** in the grounds of **Sandhurst School, Minard Road, Catford SE6** a teacher leaving the school premises was seriously assaulted by four youths in an unprovoked and vicious attack.

Were you near the location at the time?

Can you give any information that may assist?

Your assistance is urgently required.

Any information will be dealt with in complete confidence.

If you feel that you can assist, please ring

0181 284 5015 or

0181 695 1212

and ask for Catford Police Control Room

or if you don't want to give your name, ring Crimestoppers on

0800 555 111

METROPOLITAN POLICE

CRIMESTOPPERS 0800 555 111

Clearly overwhelmed by the show of support from local people and her union, Alison thanked them for standing by her. She made a point of also thanking the police, who she said have been tremendously supportive. She ended by saying that she had received hundreds of get well cards and that she wanted "to thank the enormous amount of people all around the country who have sent get well wishes and are in solidarity with me".

Christine Blower, the national president of the NUT, said that this was the largest meeting she could recall attending all year apart from the NUT conference. After expressing solidarity with Alison and outlining the NUT's history of fighting racism, she called on people to oppose the National Front and the British National Party.

Numerous speakers from the floor expressed solidarity with Alison, including Stephen Lawrence's cousin, who is a pupil at a nearby school. She gave a short reading that had been written by a fellow pupil.

One former pupil, now aged 70, recalled that this was not the first time the school had been targeted by fascists, as during the war Nazi aircraft fired into the school playground with machine guns. The victims of the attack are buried in Hither Green cemetery.

Shortly afterwards Alison was given a rapturous reception at the NUT Annual Conference.

The attack on Alison received nationwide press coverage in the newspapers and on television. However, the police are disappointed with the response to their appeals for anyone who can help with information as to the identity of the attackers to come forward. They have distributed 18,000 leaflets in the area but have had little response so far.

Alison's bravery has to be admired. There can be no doubt that her courage and the support of her union and the wider community have dealt a strong blow against the racist scum that carried out this cowardly attack.

The rally ended emotionally with the audience on their feet as Alison led the singing of "We shall overcome".

Trade Union Friends of Searchlight

Trade Union Friends of Searchlight sends May Day greetings to all its affiliates and friends. This year we have a stall at the TUC South East Region's event and hope to see you there.

Copies of the fourth edition of *TUFS News* are still available. If your branch needs extra copies, or you would like a sample copy, please contact the Searchlight office.

Is there something of interest going on in your union that you would like to see in *Searchlight* or *TUFS News*? Please contact us or send a short article.

With the conference season well under way perhaps you are a delegate to conference or can help get copies of *Searchlight* or *TUFS* News on to a stall at the conference. Please give good notice so we can send you material in advance to take with you.

If your union branch's reaffiliation is due, you will receive notification. Please reply promptly to ensure that you don't miss a copy of *Searchlight* or *TUFS News*.

Trade union branches are invited to join TUFS for £50 a year, for which they will receive *Searchlight* every month, updates on trade union issues, special rates for training, education and publications and Searchlight Educational Trust's widely acclaimed handbook, *When Hate Comes to Town*.

Get your branch to join. Further details and application forms are available from 37B New Cavendish Street, London W1M 8JR.

SEARCHLIGHT ON THE WORLD

FN poised for control of French right

France's traditional right, which is now increasingly dependent on the support of the fascist Front National to hold off the left, is embattled and fighting for its survival.

On the evening of 15 March the results of France's regional assembly elections seemed to mark a "relative victory" for the left, as *Libération* put it, despite the fact that the FN's 15.27% was 1.5% more than its vote in the 1992 regional ballots. However, the defeat of the mainstream right marked an important advance for the FN's long-term objective of establishing its own preeminence on the right.

Although this is the third time since the 1995 presidential vote that the FN has polled more than 15%, this statistic should be viewed with care. The FN's vote has hardly risen since the 1997 parliamentary elections, and while the number of FN regional councillors has risen from 239 to 275, it remains below the 300 target set by the FN's leader Jean-Marie Le Pen.

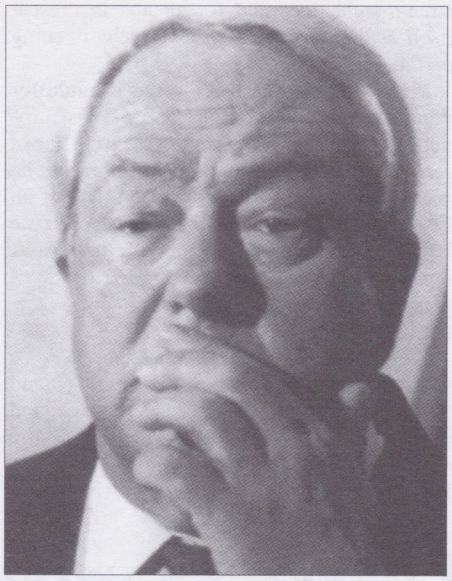
The victory is more political than statistical and the regional election results can do little to diminish worries about the FN's apparently inexorable march towards the role of decisive power-broker on the right.

The party gained its best results in Provence–Alpes–Côtes d' Azur (PACA), with 29% in the Var (including Toulon), 27% in Alpes-Maritimes (Nice) and Vaucluse (Avignon) and 26% in the Bouches du Rhône. In other regions the FN vote was only marginally lower: 24% in Oise, 21.5% in the Rhône, 21% in Eure et Loire and 20% in Alsace. In the Parisian region of Seine-St Denis the FN took 21%.

The fascists are now the strongest party in four of the 22 contested regions: PACA, Rhône-Alpes, Alsace and Franche-Comte.

According to political scientist Pascal Perrineau, the FN has strengthened its electoral influence in those *départements* where the urban and social crises are most intense. Thus the largest increases in the FN vote came in the regions where it was already strong – the south and east – while it lost votes in the regions where the part is weak, the west and south west.

Le Pen's party made its best showing where politically favourable factors blended together, in particular "a large migrant population, rising insecurity, the economic and social crisis and the fears and sickness of the great urban areas," Perrineau concludes.



FN leader Jean-Marie Le Pen: his conviction for assault last month has deprived him of political rights

While the emergence of the FN in the 1980s was closely linked to a radicalisation of the middle and upper classes, which previously voted solidly for the mainstream right, since the beginning of the 1990s, the party has also begun to capture support from people who voted for the left. As a result the FN can now pride itself on being the leading party among manual workers.

At present, the FN still seems to winning new support from the right-wing electorate but marking time on the left. The party recorded its strongest electoral growth in those regions of the southeast in which the mainstream right has been in near-terminal crisis for a long time and where the FN already controls four cities. In Alpes-Maritimes, its vote increased by 4%, in the Var by 3% and in the Bouches du Rhône and Vaucluse by 2%.

The results of 15 March seemed to indicate a victory for the "left", in reality an alliance between the governing Socialist Party, the Communist Party, the Greens and two other centre-left groups, in about ten regional assemblies. But Friday 20 March saw a sensation when five regional presidents from the liberal UDF were elected with the full support of FN regional councillors to prevent the left from winning control.

These presidents were Charles Baur in northern Picardie, Jacques Blanc in Languedoc-Roussillon, Bernard Harang in the Centre region, Charles Millon in Rhône-Alpes and Jean Pierre Soisson in Burgundy. Soisson and Blanc had already run their regions before with tacit FN support, Blanc between 1992 and 1993 and Soisson between 1986 and 1992.

The election of these regional bosses with FN backing was the outcome of a crazy week in which the leaders of the FN, Bruno Mégret, in particular, used the FN's regional council seats to try to force the mainstream right into a bloc against the left. This strategy of making overtures to the stunned mainstream right, which clashes head-on with the "neither right, nor left but France first" strategy defended by Le Pen's son-in-law Samuel Maréchal and the tendency around Bruno Gollnisch, is aimed at breaking the ever more porous barrier between the old right and the fascists.

Several leading mainstream conservative personalities such as Jean-François Mancel, president of the Oise region and former deputy leader of President Jacques Chirac's Rally for the Republic (RPR), have already begun to think the unthinkable and have appealed for an alliance of the entire right, including the FN.

Shortly after the first round of the election, the national leaders of the RPR and UDF, officially ruled out any sort of cooperation with the fascists, but at a local level both leading and rank and file members of these parties argued exactly the opposite.

In the face of localised opposition, the RPR expelled Mancel and banned its members from taking part in running the five regions with the help of the FN. The UDF, for its part, announced that it was suspending the five regional presidents.

However, the UDF is in disarray and even its leaders are no longer on the same wavelength. Alain Madelin, a former student fascist, refused to support his party leader François Léotard's call for the exclusion of the FN. To add to the confusion, the leader of the centrists in the UDF, François Bayrou, announced the creation of a new centre-right party, of which the central policy will be the rejection of any agreements with the FN.

The goings-on in the UDF portend the implosion of the entire mainstream right. A large part of the rank and file of both the RPR and the UDF is now ready, willing and able to cross the Rubicon and come to terms with the fascists.

Nevertheless, there are also tendencies in the opposite direction. Le Pen, regaining the control that he temporarily abandoned to Mégret, insisted that FN support for the elected conservatives should be repaid by their support for his candidature for the presidency of the PACA region. Amidst the political turmoil, the second round of county council elections on 22 March saw a swing to the left in more than ten *départements* and the worst electoral performance by the right in the county council elections since 1958. Of the 3,857 seats won by the right, the FN took one third, including new gains in its fiefdoms of Marignane and Toulon, but many of the conservative county councillors who made pacts with the FN lost their seats, punished by the voters.

On 23 March, President Chirac entered the fray, denouncing the FN as a "racist and xenophobic party", turning those who were tempted into a coalition with the FN in PACA and Ile-de-France into minorities and enabling the left to take over. In other regions, such as Midi-Pyrenées and Haute Normandie, regional presidents who were elected against their will with the votes of the FN quickly resigned. In this situation Soisson and Harang were also unable to hold on to their posts and resigned, leaving the other three UDF regional presidency collaborators hanging on by the skin of their teeth.

The opposition to pacts with the FN came to a peak with demonstrations by more than 150,000 people throughout France on 23 March. The protests demanded the immediate resignation of the three regional presidents elected with the support of the FN.

The situation remains unsettled. The current crisis shows that the dam that barred the FN from established political institutions has become exceedingly fragile and that the temptations of an alliance are prevalent among large parts of the right.

The regional assemblies have relatively little power, but the cooperation with the FN in this arena paves the way for similar compromises when more power is at stake, such as in municipal and parliamentary elections.

The traditional right is in tatters, riven between the conservative RPR, the centrists and the liberals, inside and outside the UDF, and more than 200 representatives of the the RPR and UDF – MPs, senators and councillors – are ready in one way or another to collaborate with the FN.

It is a basic fact of French political life today that, now that the FN has a solid 15% of the vote, it is impossible for the right to return to power without its support. For the FN the big challenge is to dynamite the mainstream right once and for all and to present itself as the only alternative, thereby opening up the road to power.

Meanwhile, inside the FN the struggle for dominance is intensifying. The party's unrivalled number two, Bruno Mégret, looks ready to get rid of the aging Le Pen, whom he sees as the main obstacle to his project of an FN-dominated union of the right. When Le Pen went for the presidency of the PACA region, he was not only looking for a taste of personal political power, he was intent on torpedoing Mégret's policies.

Mégret and his allies, such as Jean-Yves Le Gallou, have multiplied their meetings and contacts with prominent conservatives and even Le Pen's supporters, such as Marie France Stirbois, FN treasurer Jean-Pierre Reveau and Jean-Michel Dubois, who stands close to big employers' circles, are ready to consider a union of the right. Only Le Pen's "sectarianism" stands in the way.

Mégret set out his stall most blatantly at the beginning of April with a statement to the Italian right-wing weekly *Il Borghese* that the FN, inspired by the Italian fascist Alleanza Nazionale under Gianfranco Fini, "could find a route to power via an alliance with the RPR and a renewed UDF".

Mégret's position is rapidly gaining strength. The conviction of Le Pen on 2 April for beating up a Socialist election candidate in last year's general election has resulted in him losing all political rights – not least the right to hold office – for two years. If Le Pen's appeal fails, he will be unable to head the FN list in the forthcoming European elections. The scheming Mégret would then have all the cards in his hands.

The left must bear some responsibility for the present fragile situation. It was the late François Mitterrand who facilitated the FN's 1984 breakthrough, when he brought in proportional representation to divide his conservative and liberal opponents. His tactic failed and 35 fascists got elected to the French Parliament. From that moment, the FN was a bomb with a delayed fuse and now the wire is burning very short.

From Reflex

Salzburg council backs SS veterans' campaign

Austrian fascists and militarists have caused uproar by mounting a campaign against the travelling exhibition, "The Crimes of the Wehrmacht", which is currently on show in Salzburg.

The main organiser of the fascist propaganda effort, which includes a photographic counter-exhibition, is the 200,000-strong Wehrmacht and SS veterans' organisation, the Österreichischer Kameradschaftsbund (ÖKB).

Many of the pictures in the fascist collection belong to Walther Gross, a former Austrian prisoner of war in the Soviet Union. Gross served with the rank of *Obersturmführer* (First Lieutenant) in the First Panzer Division/ Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler of the murderous SS.

In defiance of the postwar peace agreements, which strictly forbade the enlistment of former Waffen SS men into the Austrian armed forces, Gross was recruited into the army and rose to the rank of brigadier after the war. Now retired, he has made a second career as a prominent figure on Austria's voluminous fascist speakers' circuit, frequently giving lectures to openly nazi outfits such as the outrageously misnamed Seminar for Democratic Politics, which has provided a platform for such internationally notorious nazis as Pedro Varela from Spain and Jürgen Rieger from Germany.

Gross's fascist track record has not, however, deterred Salzburg city council from giving official backing to the ÖKB, which is the biggest veterans' organisation in Austria, and its exhibition, which is designed to rescue the "honour" of the Nazi hordes who laid waste to most of Europe between 1939 and 1945.

Incredibly, the city authorities have placed the sumptuous functions and banqueting suite of Salzburg City Hall at the disposal of the ÖKB free of charge, while denying any kind of political or financial support to the exhibition documenting the Wehrmacht's participation in the Holocaust.

In a letter to Prime Minister Viktor Klima, nazi-hunter Simon Wiesenthal and researchers Walther Manoschek and Albert Lichtblau have provided evidence of Gross's SS past and have sharply protested at the support being given to the ÖKB exhibition by prominent politicians, including the mayor of Salzburg and leading city councillors. Their names appear on the list of those backing the exhibition alongside those of hard-core national socialists.

It is not only in Austria that SS veterans are being feted as "heroes". In Hungary, fascists from the Magyar Nemzeti Arevonal (Hungarian National Front) recently staged a demonstration in Budapest.

The MNA, whose paper, *MNA Tajekoztato*, is an antisemitic hate sheet, sees itself as the élite of the fascist Hungarist movement and the only true successor to the nazi Arrow Cross movement of the prewar and wartime periods.

The demonstration, in which nazis from Germany and Serbia also took part, commemorated the battle of Budapest, in which mainly SS German and Hungarian troops attempted to break out of an encirclement by the Red Army towards the end of the Second World War. Before the march, nazi organisations, including the so-called National Info-Telefon in Switzerland, had appealed for would-be participants to go to Budapest "to commemorate the heroes of the Waffen SS who laid down their lives in the fight against Zionist-Bolshevism" during the war.

From our Austrian correspondent

German nazis commemorate the Waffen SS in Budapest

BLOOD AND HONOUR
BERLIN
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88
Kahla

SEARCHLIGHT ON THE STATES

A pact with the devil

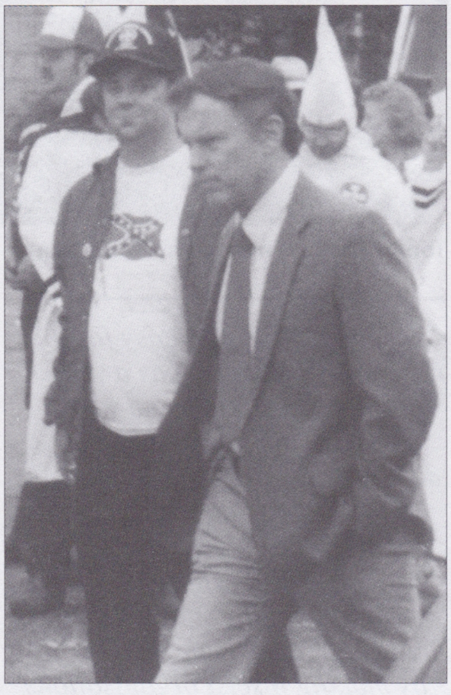
The Mississippi Sovereignty Commission's files finally became public record, 21 years after they were officially sealed. The Sovereignty Commission was created by the Mississippi legislature in 1956 to maintain apartheid in the state and fight efforts to extend basic citizenship rights to black people. With an annual budget of $250,000 (a considerable sum at that time), the commission hounded civil rights activists and sympathisers, worked with white supremacist organisations such as the notorious Citizens' Councils and protected some of the most heinous racist murderers of the time. It was decommissioned in 1977 and its files ordered sealed for 50 years.

Nevertheless, copies of some of the files surreptitiously found their way to a reporter for a Mississippi newspaper, the *Jackson Clarion-Ledger*, in the early 1990s. He then revealed how the segregationist state agency had abetted Byron de la Beckwith, who was tried twice, but not convicted, for the 1963 murder of NAACP leader Medgar Evers. As a result of that reportage, Beckwith was tried a third time and convicted.

Now that the commission's files are officially open, there is hope that other suspected killers will finally be brought to justice. At the top of the list is Sam Bowers, then chief of the Mississippi White Knights, for the 1966 murder of a Hattiesburg NAACP official, Vernon Dahmer. Five people were found guilty of Dahmer's murder. Bowers was tried for masterminding the plot, but never convicted.

At the same time as the Sovereignty Commission's now open files are refocusing attention on Klan killers in Mississippi, there is renewed scrutiny of the 1968 assassination of the Rev Dr Martin Luther King, Jr. An escaped convict, James Earl Ray, pleaded guilty in March 1969 to shooting King. But a few days later he fired his attorney and recanted his plea.

Now King's family and others are requesting that the case be reopened. Some believe that government agencies masterminded the murder and that Ray is innocent. Their requests carry additional weight because the records of a House subcommittee which investigated the assassination in 1977 were sealed for 50 years. In addition, the FBI carried on a vicious campaign against King and other black leaders. Like the Sovereignty Commission's files, the House subcommittee's files must be opened to the public as soon as possible.



Ed Fields, nazi editor

The record connecting Ray to the murder on 4 April is well established. He bought the getaway car and the rifle that shot King, and rented a room near King's hotel in Memphis. Now Ray contends he was framed by a mysterious "Raoul". But it is conclusively known that Ray started stalking King in Selma, Alabama two weeks before the murder. When King left Alabama, so did Ray, who then went to Atlanta and staked out King's home, office and church. Ray then went to Birmingham, Alabama to buy the weapon and followed King to Memphis.

In all probability, Ray did not pull off the murder by himself. One official psychiatric evaluation found him lacking the initiative and ability to plan the assassination by himself. Like with Timothy McVeigh in the Oklahoma City bombing, even if other conspirators are eventually uncovered, it is unlikely to lessen Ray's own culpability.

Like so many murderers at the time, Ray never believed he would be punished for killing a black civil rights leader. He told one reporter "no white man has ever been executed in Tennessee for killing a nigger". For much of 1968, he thought Alabama's Governor George Wallace would be elected president that November and would free him from prison after two years. After Wallace lost the election Ray believed a jury pool would be filled with potential sympathisers because Wallace had carried that district. Ray only pleaded guilty after his lawyer convinced him that a trial would result in the death penalty.

Just days later Ray reversed his plea and fired his attorney. Instead he retained J B Stoner, the notorious leader of the National States Rights Party, for which Ray's brother Jerry was an organiser. Stoner immediately filed a lawsuit against Ray's former attorneys and a journalist, claiming that the murder of Dr King was planned by the FBI and that Ray was forced to plead guilty to hide the evidence. Until Ray retained attorney William Pepper, that theory remained within the cloistered realm of white supremacists.

It is important to recall that at the time Stoner represented Ray, Stoner himself was guilty of bombing a black church. Although the bombing occurred in 1958, Stoner was not tried and convicted until 1980. From day one, Stoner and his comrade Ed Fields had tried to insinuate themselves into Ray's defence. Fields had attempted to use the case to raise money, but was rebuffed by Ray's attorneys until Stoner was awarded the case. James Earl's brother Jerry Ray claims that Stoner recruited him to the National States Rights Party, a membership Jerry Ray held for 15 years.

It is undoubtedly true that *all* of King's killers have not been brought to the bar of justice. It is equally true that Stoner, Fields, their British ally John Tyndall and more pointedly William Pepper's mystery witness, the British National Party activist and lifelong nazi Sid Carthew, have spent decades covering up racist violence. The road to truth does not lead through them.

NORWAY

Nazis fire shots

Three nazis, including the recently convicted killer Johnny Olsen, were arrested in Oslo at the beginning of April after an incident in which shots were fired at anti-fascists and a taxi was hijacked.

About 30 nazis, including several Swedes, had gathered in the eastern part of the city and put up posters and stickers. In the clash with anti-fascists that followed, the nazis came off worst.

Olsen and two other nazis, Daniel De Linde and Jan Roger Larsen, showed up soon afterwards. Olsen was swinging an axe, while De Linde, a member of the Viking group, fired about six shots.

When armed police arrived, the three ran off and hijacked a taxi. They were arrested after crashing into a lamppost.

Meanwhile, the Norwegian National Socialist Movement (formerly Zorn 88) is planning to publish a new Norwegian edition of the notorious antisemitic forgery, *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*. The nazis say it will be based on a 1933 Norwegian edition and a 1924 Finnish edition.

They are planning to include articles from when the book first was published about what they describe as "the Jewish ritual murder of the Russian Tsar".

The last Norwegian edition was printed in 1944 by Yrnulf Myklestad, propaganda leader of Vidkun Quisling's NS movement in Oslo. Myklestad is still an active nazi.

From our Norwegian correspondent and Monitor

Nazis allowed to march to ballot box

Tomorrow belongs to us? Nazis march through Saalfeld on 14 March

In the run-up to the federal German parliamentary elections in October, the strength of the German nazi movement, led by the Nationaldemokratische Partei Deutschlands (NPD), has become increasingly apparent on the streets.

A focal point of the NPD's campaign is a planned demonstration on 1 May, which could involve as many as ten thousand nazis in Leipzig, in the heart of the party's Saxony stronghold. The NPD has been preparing for the day by staging several federal and regional demonstrations in the space of a few weeks.

In the early 1990s nazi marches were generally banned, usually as soon as anti-fascists applied to hold counter-demonstrations, on the grounds that "public safety and order were being endangered". Now the militant nazi hard core use the NPD's local structures and the situation has to some extent been reversed.

The NPD's marches are seldom banned because the NPD has the status of a recognised electoral party. The nazis' marches can then take place disguised as part of the NPD's election effort. Even if a nationwide ban on the party was threatened, the NPD would still be able to contest the coming Bundestag elections in October.

It is now relatively easy for the nazis, using the NPD as a vehicle, to call marches and win permission for them. These demonstrations play a key role by providing young rightists and skinheads with shared goals, activity and experience, by proving their strength both inside and outside the right-wing scene, by making fascist organisations more attractive in local right-wing youth subcultures and by intimidating anti-fascists, immigrants and left-wingers.

In short, the nazis are asserting their hegemony in the streets, and this process is often aided by local politicians and, appallingly, state law enforcement and security organs, which sympathise with "the disciplined and orderly" nazis.

This was amply displayed during March and April. Flushed with its success in mobilising more than 1,000 for its march against the "Crimes of the Wehrmacht" exhibition in Dresden in January, the NPD embarked on a series of regional demonstrations.

On 14 March, the NPD staged simultaneous marches in three German states and brought several hundred fascists onto the streets. In Lübeck, Schleswig-Holstein, the Bündnis Rechts (Alliance of the Right), a conglomeration of the remains of several nazi organisations, including the Gesinnungsgemeinschaft der Neuen Front (GdNF), the banned Nationale Liste (NL) and Freiheitliche Deutsche Arbeiterpartei Partei (FAP), as well as the Deutsche Liga für Volk und Heimat and the NPD itself, mobilised more than 200 nazis for an election campaign march.

> *It is now relatively easy for the nazis, using the NPD as a vehicle, to call marches and win permission for them. These demonstrations play a key role by providing young rightists and skinheads with shared goals, activity and experience, by proving their strength both inside and outside the right-wing scene, by making fascist organisations more attractive in local right-wing youth subcultures and by intimidating anti-fascists, immigrants and left-wingers*

A few weeks earlier, on 31 January, a nazi attempt to stage a parade had flopped in the face of determined anti-fascist opposition. Anti-fascists blocked the fascists' path with burning barricades and the city's mayor announced a ban, forcing the police to escort the nazis out of town.

The second attempt was different. More than a thousand police ensured that anti-fascist protests were repressed. In the course of the day, around 400 anti-fascists who had tried to occupy the nazis' rallying point were arrested and taken into preventive custody.

Having cleared a path, the police then very kindly escorted the nazis – led by Christian Worch, leader of the banned NL, Oliver Schweigert, former FAP and anti-Antifa Berlin, and the NPD leader Christian Wendt, now boss of the nazi prisoners' aid group, the HNG – with armoured vehicles though the streets of the district of Moisling.

Lübeck's mayor, Michael Bouteiller, who had argued to the bitter end for a ban on the nazi display, was subjected to a barrage of criticism by the right-wing local press and conservatives from Helmut Kohl's Christian Democratic Union. Little more than a week later, on 22 March, Bündnis Rechts candidates for the city parliament took 3.6% of the vote, a high figure for open nazis.

The second demonstration on 14 March took place in Neustrelitz, a town of 20,000 inhabitants in the neighbouring state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. The nazis were able to march undisturbed, despite the fact that two weeks earlier a similar march was banned after a massive anti-fascist mobilisation and very good publicity campaign. Then the anti-fascists were able to hold a broad front demonstration, attended by more than 500 people, and nazis who came for their own demonstration were sent packing.

While the first attempt to march was organised by the local nazi Kameradschaft Neustrelitz (now known as the Unabhängige Freundeskreis – Independent Friends' Circle), the second application was made by the NPD. As a result, between 150 and 200 nazis, led by the nazi lawyer Hans-Günter Eisenecker and members of the NPD's national leadership, paraded through the streets waving NPD flags. A citizens and Social Democrat alliance "against all extremism" mobilised only 350 people and, in any case, had no intention of preventing the NPD march.

However, it was in Saalfeld, in Thüringen, that police action against anti-fascists reached a new nadir and nazis were allowed to march without hindrance. As early as last October, the ground was being laid for police and state complicity in giving the nazis room to manoeuvre when the authorities slapped a ban on an anti-fascist demonstration.

Notwithstanding the ban, anti-fascists attempted to protest at the way in which Saalfeld was turning into a nazi stronghold. Around 400 did not enter the town but instead blocked a motorway. For their pains, they were imprisoned for 48 hours in a disused East German prison.

In the period leading up to 14 March, a broad alliance of trade unions, church organisations, political parties, anti-fascist groups and, surprisingly, the CDU MP Michael Friedman called for a demonstration under the slogan "Against any right-wing consensus" to illustrate that if anything had changed it had done so only for the worse and that anti-fascists were not going to be pushed off the streets.

Local politicians and, regrettably, probably a majority of the local population demanded that the anti-fascist demonstration be banned. In the end the anti-fascist march was allowed but while the nazis enjoyed the freedom of the town centre, anti-fascists were restricted to the outskirts. The circumstances behind the Saalfeld events of 14 March will probably be incredible to many non-German readers.

The city administration of Saalfeld set the tone by demanding that the organisers of the anti-fascist march provide a list of the names and organisational backgrounds of all speakers and stewards. The demand was rejected. When the nazis called a counter-march, they encountered no such interference from the authorities and were given a plum march route in the city centre.

Even the nazis were stunned. Their original application had been a stunt to get the anti-fascist march banned but now they had to organise a demonstration. After mobilising hard-core activists from Berlin and Thüringen, they pulled out a mob of around 200 onto the streets of Saalfeld, protected by a security operation involving more than 3,000 police. The police threw a cordon right through the town to ensure that anti-fascists never got anywhere near the nazis.

While their colleagues in the city centre were busy seeing to the fascists' needs, police on the outskirts were making sure that more than 700 anti-fascists from Berlin and Leipzig were duly stopped from taking part in the anti-fascist demonstration. Their buses were buzzed by helicopters and halted on an approach road to Saalfeld.

When about 120 anti-fascists mounted a spontaneous demonstration, they were arrested and taken into preventive detention for ten hours. The other 600 were not allowed to leave their buses and, after several hours waiting, were escorted out of Thüringen. In spite of these repressive measures, about 500 anti-fascists did succeed in reaching Saalfeld for a march with a shortened route and which was attacked by the police.

The consequences of the tirades of the local press and politicians against anti-fascists were to be seen only days after the fiasco of 14 March, when a 14-year-old girl was murdered by a 15-year-old nazi skinhead, who stabbed her several times in the neck and throat in broad daylight. Although the murder sparked two spontaneous anti-fascist demonstrations by more than a thousand people, the nazi threats against anti-fascists in the area have intensified.

Since then, the NPD has repeated the pattern. On 4 April, the nazis attempted to stage two marches and, at the same time, to block anti-fascist mobilisations. In Leisnig, in Sachsen, a local alliance of anti-fascists applied for a demonstration with the slogan "Cut the ground from under the nazis – defend human rights". The intention was to highlight the growing number of nazi activities, including bonehead concerts, and attacks in the area.

A few days before the planned demonstration, the NPD stepped in with an application to march, claiming that more than a thousand NPD members and supporters would be taking part. To heighten the tension, the fascists produced and distributed forged "anti-fascist" leaflets urging violence. The NPD application and the leaflets were immediately used by the local council as an excuse to ban both demonstrations, a decision that was confirmed by the court.

Frank Schwerdt, member of the NPD executive, who helped lead the nazis through Saalfeld

While the anti-fascists could do nothing, the nazis mobilised instead in Klötze, a village of 1,000 people, in Sachsen-Anhalt. There, the local nazi Kameradschaft – closely advised by leading nazis such as the recently convicted Steffen Hupka (of the NPD and a member of the banned Nationalistische Front) and Thorsten Heise (a former FAP thug with several convictions) – called for a demonstration "against drugs".

On the morning of the march, the dangers presented by the NPD's flexible and more intelligent tactics were obvious. The nazis stood in front of local supermarkets dishing out official anti-drugs leaflets published by the German Red Cross and won a lot of support from local people. The subsequent march through the village was attended by more than 200 nazis, including Worch and the notorious woman anti-Antifa activist Thekla Kosche.

When a hundred anti-fascists arrived in Klötze to oppose the nazis, they were constantly harassed by the police. They were banned from handing out leaflets and from using a loudspeaker because, according to a senior policeman, "that would be a provocation to the population". Although a further nazi march planned for the same day in the NPD stronghold of Bad Herzfeld in Hessen was banned, the NPD gave notice that it would march again on 25 April.

The present tactics of the NPD serve mainly as a series of stepping stones for the planned NPD-Junge Nationaldemokraten demonstration on 1 May in Leipzig. After last year's failure, the NPD claims that it will bring as many as 10,000 nazis to Leipzig for what would be the biggest nazi event since the defeat of the Hitler regime.

A broad alliance against the march has been formed. Initiated by autonomous anti-fascists and the local Alliance against the Right, it now has widespread support, including politicians from the SPD, the Greens and the Party of Democratic Socialism, trade unions, churches, the CDU state premier in Sachsen and the president of the state employers' federation.

The Leipzig authorities are clearly worried about potential damage to the city's image and the loss of foreign investment that could result from the unsavoury spectacle of ten thousand nazis taking over the streets on 1 May and are moving towards a ban.

Last year the prospect of serious clashes between the nazis and anti-fascists led to a ban which was enforced with an enormous deployment of police and anti-riot units. As a result, the nazis were forced to retreat and instead staged two small marches in Hessen and Sachsen.

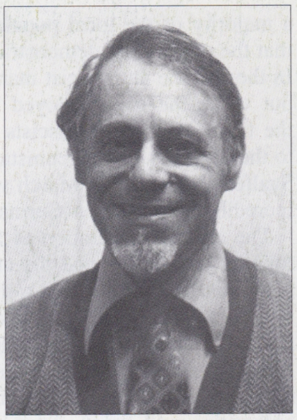
This year, an election year, there are fears that it will be more difficult to outlaw the NPD march, because it is now almost a year since the nazis notified the authorities of their intention to march and because they have consistently presented the event as part of their legal election campaign. If the march does go ahead and in the unlikely event that the nazis mobilise ten thousand people, the German anti-fascist movement will be confronted with a threat not seen since 1945.

From our German correspondent

Kauft deutsche Waren!
Försters Puchi
Magda Trott
SINGER

Return to the 1930s: a Saalfeld shop entreats people to "buy German goods"

Remembering two great fighters



On 27 March one of Parliament's most formidable personalities passed away. Joan Lestor had sat in the Commons and then the Lords since her election as the MP for Eton and Slough in 1966 and served in both the Wilson and the Callaghan Labour governments. Her time as Minister for Overseas Aid and her work for women's and children's rights will never be forgotten.

After the Labour victory in 1997 she went to the Lords as Baroness Lestor of Eccles, her last constituency.

Joan never married but adopted six children. She had been a Labour Party member for more than 40 years and was a councillor before becoming an MP.

Most of the obituaries for her described her as a vivacious person with a strong temper and tongue to go with it. Not one that *Searchlight* has seen mentioned what was for her, and certainly for us, one of her happiest times, her period as editor of *Searchlight* in the late 1960s.

Joan came to us to replace Reg Freeson, who had become a junior minister responsible for housing in the Wilson government. Reg, who was a magazine journalist by profession, and other friends in Parliament proposed Joan, because she was as anti-racist and anti-fascist as the day was long and would be prepared to speak up for us. We had already become a thorn in the side of not only the nazis but also some MPs whose views were not that far removed from those active in the gutter of politics.

The embarrassment of our success in catching the nazi synagogue arsonists and the three trials at the Old Bailey that led to their convictions had resulted certain people in authority taking a hostile line towards *Searchlight*, namely, a handful of Special Branch officers including one inspector who was having some form of relationship with Françoise Dior, the French perfume heiress and convicted former wife of the nazi leader Colin Jordan.

Eventually this officer made the mistake of phoning Joan and warning her about the terrible people with whom she was mixed up. Her response was to threaten to name him on the floor of the House of Commons if he did not lay off.

Her threat to put the inspector back in uniform was to come to pass a few months later. When his superior found out the extent of his devious conduct, he was put out to grass awaiting early retirement.

Unfortunately Joan had only just arrived at *Searchlight* when, like her predecessor, she was invited to become a junior minister – for overseas aid. It was a job she loved, but she was never far from the fight for women and children.

When we met her at the House over the years she was always at the centre of heated debates in the bar or restaurants. When she arrived in the Lords she was fighting again. We think she would have been pleased to see Claire Short step into her old ministerial job. Claire and her late husband, the former Home Office Minister Alex Lyon, have always been good friends of *Searchlight*.

The news of Joan's sudden death shocked the older members of *Searchlight*'s team. We are proud to have had her comradeship and strength as our editor, even for such a short time.

This month sees the anniversary of the death of another of our former editors, Maurice Ludmer. Since Maurice passed away in 1981 the world has changed greatly, but his maxim that we must teach anti-racists to be anti-fascists and anti-fascists to be anti-racists is still the foundation stone of much of our work.

Maurice, a lifelong trade unionist, would have been pleased at the creation and growth of Trade Union Friends of Searchlight (TUFS) over the past 18 months. With over 130 branch affiliations, TUFS is a lasting monument to Maurice's memory.

Our TUFS team have often found Maurice's name coming up at local or regional trade union gatherings or meetings with national officers, and it is always spoken with respect and pride.

Maurice knew that there was no place for fascists and racists to hide, be it on the factory floor, in the office or down the pits.

A generation of youngsters have been lost to the trade union movement because of Britain's economic plight, but as trade union activities begin to grow again, Maurice's ideas are as fresh now as 45 years ago when he first became active.

Joe Hill in the well known song never died. Maurice, who loved to listen to Paul Robeson singing about that great American trade union martyr, is another great fighter for human rights and dignity who will never die in the movement's memory.

Joan Lestor and Maurice Ludmer, salud from us all.

Facing Fascism, Antisemitism and Racism in the New Millennium

A one-day international seminar, sponsored by the Spiro Institute and Searchlight Educational Trust.

Sessions will include:

◆ **The American right after the Oklahoma bomb trials.**
Leonard Zeskind, President of the Institute for Research and Education on Human Rights.

◆ **German militarism and the Austrian elections.**
Graeme Atkinson, European editor of Searchlight and coordinator of Searchlight's international network.

◆ **The nazi terror machine and the peddlers of hate.**
Nick Lowles, television producer, author and expert on football violence.

◆ **Origins of antisemitism and Holocaust denial.**
Trudy Gold of the Spiro Institute, leading educationalist on Holocaust Studies.

◆ **International brains trust session.**
Chaired by Gerry Gable, editor of Searchlight magazine.

Sunday, 10 May 1998

at The Spiro Institute c/o London University,
Kidderpore Avenue, Hampstead, London NW3

Registration at 10.30 am. Sessions 11am to 5pm

Tickets, £12.50, must be purchased in advance from the Spiro Institute (concessionary rates on enquiry)